PROJECT DRIBBLE PETROGRAPHIC EXAMINATION AND PHYSICAL TESTS OF CORES, TATUM SALT DOME, MISSISSIPPI



TECHNICAL REPORT NO. 6-6:4

January 1963

U. S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Vicksburg, Mississippi

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TECHNICAL REPORT NO. 6-614

January 1963

U S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Vicksburg, Mississippi

ARMY-MRC VICKSBURG, MISS.

PREFACE

The tests described in this report were authorized in a letter from the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, Albuquerque Operations Office, to the U. S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, dated 30 December 1960, subject, "WES Participation in Vela Uniform."

The tests were performed for the Atomic Energy Commission as directed by Holmes and Narver, Inc., architect-engineers for the AEC, and Dr. D. U. Deere, University of Illinois, consultant for Holmes and Narver. They were conducted at the Waterways Experiment Station under the supervision of Mr. Thomas B. Kennedy, Chief, Concrete Division, and Messrs. Bryant Mather, James M. Polatty, E. E. McCoy, Jr., and William O. Tynes and Mrs. Katharine Mather, of the Concrete Division staff. Messrs. Alan D. Buck, W. I. Luke, E. C. Roshore, B. J. Houston, Kenneth L. Saucier, Frank S. Stewart, and SP4 Howard Sugiuchi, also of the Concrete Division staff, actively participated in the work. This report was prepared by Messrs. Saucier and Buck.

Directors of the Waterways Experiment Station during the conduct of the study and the preparation of this report were Col. Edmund H. Lang, CE, and Col. Alex G. Sutton, Jr., CE. Technical Director was Mr. J. B. Tiffany.

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SUMMARY

Two holes (WP-1 and -4) drilled into the Tatum dome, Lamar County, Miss., yielded 95 samples taken from scattered depths between 948 and 2703 ft below ground surface. Eight cores from cap rock in hole WP-1 and six cores from cap rock and 11 cores from salt in hole WP-4 were 2-1/8 in. in diameter; 70 cores from salt in hole WP-1 were 4-15/16 in. in diameter. In addition, 32 core samples, 16 of each of the above-listed diameters, were obtained from the 811-ft depth in the Carey Salt Mine, Winnfield, La. (tests of these cores are described in Appendix A).

All samples were examined petrographically before being subjected to physical tests to develop information on texture, fabric, structure, and composition. Many samples were reexamined after having been subjected to the physical tests. Observations were made at various magnifications; quantity, nature, and particle-size distribution of water-insoluble residues were determined; composition and constitution were determined from optical properties of thin sections and powder mounts, and by X-ray diffraction and X-ray emission; precise determinations of specific gravity were made with a torsion microbalance.

The following physical tests were performed: (a) uniaxial compressive strength tests; (b) uniaxial +ensile strength tests; (c) uniaxial tests for compressive strength under cyclic loading; (d) uniaxial compression tests by incremental loading; (e) uniaxial creep tests; (f) triaxial extension tests; (g) nondestructive dynamic (sonic and ultrasonic) tests; and (h) specific gravity, porosity, permeability, and interstitial fluid tests. Strain measurements were made in all strength test specimens using one of three methods: (a) with a compressometer, (b) between embedded inserts with a mechanical gage, or (c) by SR-4 electrical strain gages.

The samples from Winnfield represented three lithologic varieties:
(a) alternating bands of pure salt and gray anhydrite-bearing salt, (b) anhydrite-bearing salt, and (c) pure salt. Of the 81 samples of salt from the Tatum dome, 79 were of the banded type and two of pure salt. The salt crystals tended to be aligned parallel to the bands. The average grain size of the salt crystals was 1/4 to 1/2 in. The bands generally dipped at angles from 60 to 90 degrees. The anhydrite content averaged about 9 percent and ranged from 1 to 22 percent. Only traces of other materials (calcite, dolomite, iron oxiāe) were present. The carbonate cap rock included a strontium-rich zone that was found in both holes at Tatum.

The essential similarity and homogeneity of the core samples from the Tatum salt precluded positive correlation of variation in mechanical properties with variations in texture, fabric, structure, and composition. Of the cores which failed under sustained loads, most are regarded as having done so because the inherent ultimate strength of the material was exceeded; in a few cases failure is believed to have been brought about by undetected sbnormal flaws in the specimen.

PROJECT DRIBBLE PETROGRAPHIC EXAMINATION AND PHYSICAL TESTS OF CORES TATUM SALT DOME, MISSISSIPPI

PART I: INTRODUCTION

Background

1. Project IRIBBLE is a portion of the Vela Uniform explosion series under the supervision of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission. The principal purpose of the program is to test the "decoupling" theory. This theory states that if an explosive is placed in a hole just large enough for the critical stress to occur, the radiated seismic waves will be smaller than those from a tamped shot. In order to determine if a large cavity could be constructed and readied in the selected salt medium, a feasibility study was authorized in which the theoretical approach to the stability problem was to be augmented by test data on cores drilled from the cavity area. The physical quantities required to describe the necessary elastic, viscous, and plastic behavior would include the various properties, composition, stress limits, strains, moduli, and condition of the salt.

Purpose and Scope of Investigation

2. The Waterways Experiment Station was authorized to perform petrographic examinations and physical tests on halite, anhydrite, and cap rock cores from the Tatum salt dome, Lamar County, Miss., as part of the cavity durability study for Project DRIBBLE. Ninety-five cores of two sizes, 2-1/8 and 4-15/16 in. in diameter, were taken from two holes (designated WP-1 and WP-4) at the project site and sent to the Waterways Experiment Station. The cores were first examined petrographically, after which the following physical tests were performed: (a) uniaxial compressive strength tests; (b) uniaxial tensile strength tests; (c) uniaxial tests for compressive strength under cyclic loading; (d) uniaxial compression tests by incremental loading; (e) uniaxial creep tests; (f) triaxial extension tests; (g) nondestructive dynamic (sonic and ultrasonic) tests;

and (h) specific gravity, porosity, permeability, and interstitial fluid tests. Specimens were then reexamined petrographically to determine failure characteristics.

Scope of Report

3. Periodic progress reports were made to the sponsoring agency as data became available; this report summarizes the information from the fourteen progress reports. Parts II and III describe and give results of the petrographic examination of the cores from holes WP-1 and WP-4. Part IV discusses in detail the physical tests performed on the cores. Part V gives general conclusions based on the results of all examinations and tests. Appendix A describes tests made on cores from another salt dome in the Gulf Coast area (at Winnfield, La.), and is included for ready comparison of the results of tests on cores from the two salt domes. Appendices B and C are reprints of petrographic reports on the 17 cores from Tatum hole WP-4 submitted in May and November 1961, respectively. They are included as appendices to this report so that the detailed data they contain need not be included in the main text but will be available for reference.

Description of Drill Holes

- 4. Before the present investigation of the Tatum salt dome, a hole was drilled in the dome during an exploration for oil in 1940. 3* This hole was located in section 14, Township 2 North, Range 16 West, Lamar County, Miss. It was abandoned as a dry hole at a depth of 2077 ft, after drilling had been carried through 561 ft of salt. The anhydrite cap rock was encountered at 1096 ft near the base of the Catahoula formation; the salt was encountered at 1516 ft.
- 5. Hole WP-1 is also located in section 14, Lamar County, Miss. The hole coordinates are N10166.85 and E8040.83; ground elevation is

^{*} Raised numbers refer to similarly numbered items in the list of references at the end of text.

about 270 ft above mean sea level. The top of the anhydrite was found at a depth of 1056 ft, and the top of the salt at a depth of 1509.5 ft (plate 1). The depths at which these materials were found correspond closely to those at which anhydrite and salt were found in the hole drilled in 1940.

6. Hole WP-4 is likewise located in section 14, Lamar County, Miss. The hole coordinates are N9217.06 and E9272.30; ground elevation is about 240 ft above mean sea level. The top of the anhydrite was found at depth of 1016 ft, and the top of the salt at 1484 ft (plate 1). These depths are also similar to those reported for the 1940 hole and hole WP-1.

PART II: PETROGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF CORES FROM HOLE WP-1 IN TATUM SALT DOME

Identification of Cores

- 7. Seventy-eight cores taken from hole WP-1 were sent to the Water-ways Experiment Station for laboratory tests and petrographic examination. Eight were NX, 2-1/8 in. in diameter, and came from the cap rock; the remaining 70 were 4-15/16 in. in diameter and came from the salt. The cores represented only part of the material taken from hole WP-1.
- 8. When cores were cut for test a letter designation was added to facilitate identification, the portions being marked A, B, etc., from the top of the core downward. This designation became the last part of the serial number. Locations of saw cuts and letter designations for the resulting portions of cores are shown in plates 2-40 (two cores on each plate, in order listed below). Other information about hole WP-1 cores is as follows:

| CD Serial No. | Depth, ft | Received | Lithology |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|-----------|
| | NX Cor | es from Cap R | ock |
| TAT-1-NXC-14 | 1012.0 to 1012.3 | 7 July 1961 | Limestone |
| -15 | 1020.0 to 1020.3 | | |
| -16 | 1103.5 to 1106.0 | | |
| -17 | 1116.5 to 1119.0 | | |
| -21 | 1181.0 to 1183.5 | 7 July 1961 | Anhydrite |
| -19 | 1260.5 to 1262.8 | | |
| -20 | 1345.0 to 1347.0 | 7 July 1961 | Anhydrite |
| -18 | 1409.5 to 1412.0 | 7 July 1961 | Anhydrite |
| | Cor | res from Salt* | |
| TAT-1-DC-64 | 1553.5 to 1555.0 | | |
| -13 | 1657.3 to 1658.5 | | |
| -14 | 1672.0 to 1673.6 | | |
| - 65 | 1673.5 to 1675.0 | 30 Aug 1961 | |
| -18 | 1679.0 to 1680.5 | | |
| -20 | 1681.0 to 1682.2 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -17 | 1708.0 to 1709.5 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -15 | 1720.0 to 1721.5 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -19 | 1723.2 to 1724.7 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -68 | 1725.0 to 1726.6 | 13 Dec 1961 | |
| | | (Continued) | |

^{*} All 70 cores were impure rock salt; DC-5 was almost pure.

| CD Serial No. | Depth, ft | Date Received | Lithology |
|---------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| | Cores fro | m Salt* (Continued) | |
| TAT-1-DC-16 | 1822.5 to 1824.2 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -25 | 1947.2 to 1949.0 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -24 | 1990.5 to 1992.3 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -26 | 1994.5 to 1995.6 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -28 | 2035.0 to 2036.4 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -22 | 2097.3 to 2099.0 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -33 | 2151.8 to 2153.5 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -32 | 2158.8 to 2160.0 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -69 | 2161.5 to 2163.0 | 13 Dec 1961 | |
| -21 | 2179.3 to 2180.8 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -23 | 2196.5 to 2198.0 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -27 | 2200.5 to 2201.5 | | |
| - 66 | 2213.0 to 2214.5 | | |
| -40 | 2216.5 to 2218.0 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -70 | 2238.0 to 2239.8 | | |
| -30 | 2239.8 to 2241.5 | | |
| -1 | 2244.0 to 2247.0 | | |
| -2 | 2249.0 to 2252.0 | | |
| -47 | 2252.0 to 2253.7 | | |
| -36 | 2261.0 to 2262.5 | | • |
| -35 | 2262.5 to 2264.2 | | |
| -45 | 2271.0 to 2272.1 | | |
| -29 | 2287.2 to 2289.0 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -34 | 2290.8 to 2292.5 | · 10 July 1961 | |
| -31 | 2322.8 to 2324.4 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -42 | 2325.0 to 2326.3 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -5 | 2333.0 to 2335.0 | | |
| -4 | 2341.0 to 2344.0 | | |
| -3 | 2393.0 to 2397.0 | | |
| -11/1 | 2398.8 to 2400.5 | | |
| -41 | 2406.0 to 2407.2 | | |
| - 6 | 2445.0 to 2448.0 | 29 June 1961 | |
| -37 | 2453.2 to 2455.0 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -48 | 2456.7 to 2458.5 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -8 | 2459.5 to 2463.0 | | |
| -38 | 2463.8 to 2465.5 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -43 | 2486.5 to 2488.0 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -50 | 2494.8 to 2496.5 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -49 | 2496.5 to 2498.3 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -39 | 2506.0 to 2507.5 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -52 | 2518.5 to 2520.2 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -51 | 2522.0 to 2523.5 | 10 July 1961 | |
| -53 | 2526.6 to 2528.5 | 10 July 1961 | |
| | | (Continued) | |

^{*} All 70 cores were impure rock salt; DC-5 was almost pure.

| CD Serial No. | Depth, ft | Date Received | Lithology |
|--|--|---|-----------|
| | Cores fro | om Salt* (Continued) | |
| -46 -46 -7 -67 -9 -55 -56 -58 -57 -11 | 2533.5 to 2535.5 2539.5 to 2540.8 2545.0 to 2548.0 2557.0 to 2559.5 2559.5 to 2563.0 2571.8 to 2585.3 2584.0 to 2585.3 2598.2 to 2599.0 2602.4 to 2604.0 2613.0 to 2616.0 2629.3 to 2630.5 | 10 July 1961 29 June 1961 30 Aug 1961 29 June 1961 10 July 1961 10 July 1961 10 July 1961 29 June 1961 10 July 1961 | |
| -60 -10 -63 -61 -62 -12 | 2643.3 to 2645.0 2656.0 to 2659.0 2659.8 to 2662.5 2683.7 to 2685.5 2693.1 to 2695.0 2700.0 to 2703.0 | 10 July 1961 29 June 1961 10 July 1961 10 July 1961 10 July 1961 | |

^{*} All 70 cores were impure rock salt; DC-5 was almost pure.

Examinations and Description of Cores

Examinations

- 9. Each core was measured, and examined visually and with a stereo-microscope as necessary to obtain data for preparation of core logs (plates 1-40). A portion of a typical core was sawed down the middle and etched in water; the recrystallization of very small halite grains at grain boundaries as the surface dried resulted in a thin white line outlining grain boundaries. Photographs 1 and 2 show size and shape of halite grains and the appearance of gray anhydritic bands in a typical salt core. Detailed examinations were made as described in the following paragraphs.
- 10. Insoluble-residue determinations. The amount of water-insoluble residue was determined for 20 cores representing depths from 1553.5 to 2685.5 ft. Scrap ends of cores, ranging in weight from about 700 to 1900 g, were used. Each sample was weighed and placed in a 4000-ml beaker filled with tap water; the water was alternately stirred and left standing, then it was siphoned off, and the beaker refilled with clean tap water to continually remove the dissolved portions of each sample. The test was

terminated when the water in which the sample was immersed no longer developed a salty taste after adequate stirring and standing. The water-insoluble residues were dried at 100 C and weighed, and the percentages of insoluble residues were calculated (table 1).

Table 1
In aluble Re idue . Abburgtion , and Specific Gravities of Selected Gare from Hole WP-1

| | | West. | er-Insolutio hes | | Calcu- | Measured | |
|----------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| CD Serial No.* | Depth, Pt | Original Wt of Core | wt or Insoluble Residue | Amt of Insoluble Residue | Specific Sravity | Specific Gravity (Apparent) | Absorption |
| TAT-1-NXC-15 | 1020.0 to 1020.3 | | | | | 3.25 | 0.87 |
| -21 | 1151.0 to 1183.5 | | | | ** | 2.95 | 0.05 |
| -19 | 1260.5 to 1262.8 | | * * * | | | 2.95 | 0.05 |
| -18 | 1409.5 to 1412.0 | | | | | 2.95 | 0.04 |
| TAT-1-D:-64 | 1553.5 to 1555.0 | 1414 | 123.9 | 8.8 | 2.23 | 2.21 | |
| -13 | 1657.3 to 1658.5 | 784 | 31.2 | 4.0 | 2.19 | 2.19 | 0.27 |
| -65 | 1673.5 to 1675.0 | 1.235 | 91.3 | 7.4 | 2.32 | 2.22 | 0.16 |
| - 20 | 1681.0 to 1682.2 | 739 | 162.4 | 22.0 | 2.33 | 2.23 | 0.12 |
| -15 | 1720.0 to 1721.5 | 901 | 69.6 | 7.7 | 2.20 | | |
| -16A | 1822.5 to 1824.2 | 2371 | 196.2 | 8.4 | 2.22 | 2.22 | |
| -25 | 1947. to 1949.0 | 1181 | 97.7 | 8.3 | 2.22 | 2.21 | 0.53 |
| 76 | 1294.5 to 1995.6 | 1632 | 153.8 | 9.4 | 2.23 | 2.21 | |
| -28 | 2035.0 to 2036.4 | 1049 | 183.4 | 17.5 | 2.29 | 2.29 | J. 35 |
| -23 | 2196.5 to 2198.0 | 1843 | 50.7 | 3.1 | 2.18 | | |
| -2 | 2249.0 to 2252.0 | 1497 | 129.7 | 8.7 | 2.23 | 2.20 | •• |
| -5 | 2333.0 to 2335.0 | 1006 | 11.6 | 1.2 | 2.17 | | |
| -444 | 2398.8 to 2400.5 | 1238 | 89.4 | 7.2 | 2.21 | | |
| - 37C | 2453.2 to 2455.0 | 1296 | 180.1 | 13.9 | 2.27 | | *** |
| -39B | 2506.0 to 2507.5 | 1709 | 43.4 | 2.5 | 2.18 | | |
| -46A | 2539.5 to 2540.8 | 1019 | 84.8 | 8.3 | 2.22 | | |
| -67A | 2557.0 to 2559.5 | 1344 | 165.5 | 12.3 | 2.25 | | |
| -56A | 2584.0 to 2585.3 | 1883 | 129.0 | 6.9 | 2.21 | | |
| -59A | 2629.3 to 2630.5 | 842 | 116.0 | 13.8 | 2.26 | | •• |
| -61 | 2683.7 to 2685.5 | 1155 | 126.6 | 11.0 | 2.24 | 2,23 | 0.35 |
| - | | | | | | | |
| | | | Ave | care 9.1 | | | |

Note: The cavity is expected to be located between depths of 2393.8 and 2630.5 ft.

• The samples without a letter designation consisted of scrap core ends.

11 Determined by Method CRD-C 107-60 in Handbook for Consrete and Cement. 7 Kerosene was used instead of water since salt is insoluble in kerosene.

11. Particle-size analysis of insoluble residues. The dried insoluble residue from each of the 20 DC cores listed in table 1 was screened over Nos. 8, 16, 30, 50, 100, and 200 sieves; the splits obtained were weighed, and these values and the grain-size distribution curves are shown in plates 41-60. The average values for all 20 of the cores were used to prepare plate 61.

12. Specific-gravity determinations. Companion samples to 10 of the salt cores used for insoluble-residue determinations were tested for bulk and apparent specific gravities by Method CRD-C 107-60⁷ using kerosene instead of water. The theoretical specific gravity was calculated for each of the 20 cores tested for insoluble residue by using the values for the

^{••} Wt of water-inscluble residue × 100

Percent halite x sp gr (halite) + percent insoluble residue x sp gr (anhydrite). The sp gr of halite used was that reported in the literature (2.16). The sp gr of anhydrite used was the average obtained by the measurement of 20 grains (2.92) /table 2). All of the insoluble residue was assumed to be anhydrite, and the effects of absorption were ignored as being insignificant.

amount and specific gravity of halite and the amount of insoluble residue with a specially determined value for the specific gravity of anhydrite. This latter value was found as follows. Twenty specific-gravity determinations were made on 20 grains of anhydrite selected from the insoluble residue of core DC-28 in the size passing the No. 8 and retained on the No. 16 sieve (table 2). The average of the 20 values was used in calculating the

Specific Gravities of 20 Anhydrite* Grains from the Insoluble Residue

of Salt Core TAT-1-DC-28 from Hole WP-1

| and Retained on No. 16 Sieve | Specific Gravity** |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Grain 1 | 2.95 |
| 2 | 2.97 |
| 2 3 4 5 | 2.97 |
| 4 | 2.91 |
| 5 | 2.92 |
| 6 | 2.88 |
| 7 8 9 10 | 2.91 |
| 8 | 2.90 |
| 9 | 2.94 |
| 10 | 2.98 |
| 11 | 2.97 |
| 12 | 2.92 |
| 13 | 2.91 |
| 14 | 2.91 |
| 15 | 2.90 |
| 16 | 2.88 |
| 17 | 2.91 |
| 18 | 2.90 |
| 19 | 2.91 |
| 20 | 2.93 |

^{*} Various mineralogy books report a specific gravity of 2.7 to 3.0. The latest Dana (reference 4) gives a reported value of 2.98 and a calculated value of 3.00.

** Determined with a Berman torsion microbalance; toluene was used as the liquid.

$$sp gr = \frac{Wt_{air}}{Wt_{air} - Wt_{toluene}} \times sp gr_{toluene}$$

specific gravity of 20 cores. The specific-gravity determinations were made with a Berman torsion microbalance. The comparison between measured and calculated specific gravities of the cores is shown in table 1.

13. Three of the NX-size cores, NXC-18, -19, and -21, had reported specific gravities that were higher than that of any mineral known or suspected to be present in these cores. These values had been determined by the mercury-displacement method. When X-ray diffraction and emission analyses showed the presence of no constituents having specific gravities such as to account for the reported high values, new specific-gravity values were obtained by Method CRD-C 107-60 using kerosene instead of water. The results are shown in table 1.

14. X-ray examinations. X-ray diffraction and/or X-ray emission spectroscopy was used to examine the cores listed in table 3. The

Table 3

Composition of Selected Cores from Holes WP-1 and WP-b in Tatum Salt Dome
by X-Ray Examination

| | | | | XI | nerals Id | | by I-Ray | diffraction | |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--|--------------------|-------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Hol CD Serial No. | Depth, ft | CD Serial No. | Depth, ft | Anhy- drite (CaSO _k) | Calcite (Caco,) | Naco, | Stronti- nnite (SrCO ₃) | Celestite (SrSO _k) | Amor- phous Iron Orlds |
| •• | •• | TAT-1-MC-1 | 948.0 to 948.5 | •• | Hajor | •• | | ** | |
| •• | • • | TAT-1-MC-2 (Piece A) | 999.0 to 1000.0 | •• | Hajor | •• | Major, < cal- cite | Major, < cal- cite | •• |
| TAT-1-1000-14 | 1012.0 to 1012.3 | | •• | | Ha.jor | | | | |
| -15 | 1020.0 to 1020.3 | •• | •• | •• | Mjor | •• | Major, < cal- cita | Major, < cal- eite | •• |
| -21B | 1181.0 to 1183.5 | •• | | Hajor | Trace | Trace | | | • • |
| -19 | 1260.5 to 1262.8 | | •• | Major | Trace | Trace | •• | •• | |
| -18c | 1409.5 to 1412.0 | •• | | Hajor | Truce | Trace | •• | | |
| FAT-1-DC-20* | 1681.0 to 1682.2 | • • | | Major | Truce | Trace | | | Trace |
| -50 | 2333.0 to 2335.0 | | | Milor | •• | •• | •• | | |
| -464* | 2539.5 to 2540.8 | | | Major | | •• | • • | •• | |

Minerals indicated as being present in cores DC-20, -5, and -46A were present in the incoluble residue of these cores.

diffraction patterns were made with an X-ray diffractometer using nickelfiltered copper radiation at 50 kv and 16 ma or 30 kv and 27 ma. The emission patterns were made on a twin unit using a chromium target tube at
50 kv and 40 ma with an ethylene diamine ditartrate analyzing crystal in a
helium atmosphere or a lithium fluoride analyzing crystal with an air path.
The following five cores from the cap rock were examined by diffraction and
emission: NXC-14, -15, -18C, -19, and -21B. The first one and latter

three were examined as tightly packed powders which were pulverized in a mechanical mortar. A composite sample of core NXC-15 was pulverized to pass a No. 325 sieve and examined as a tightly packed powder by diffraction and emission. A portion selected from a dark band in core NXC-15 was pulverized and examined as a tightly packed powder by diffraction. A portion of core NXC-15 was digested in dilute hydrochloric acid and both the soluble and insoluble portions were examined by diffraction. Both portions were washed and evaporated to dryness; the dried materials were pulverized and sprinkled on cellophane tape to make X-ray samples.

- 15. Portions of the Nos. 30, 50, 100, and 200 sieve fractions from the insoluble residue of core DC-20 were pulverized and examined as tightly packed powders by diffraction. Hand-picked samples of brown carbonate grains and of magnetic ferruginous grains from the insoluble residues of 20 cores were pulverized, sprinkled on cellophane tape, and examined by diffraction. Composite samples of the insoluble residue of cores DC-5 and DC-46A were examined as tightly packed powders by diffraction (table 3).
- 16. Microscope examinations. The splits from the insoluble residues of 20 cores were examined with a stereomicroscope to identify the minerals present and estimate compositions. Selected grains were examined as oil immersion mounts with a petrographic microscope to determine certain desired optical properties. Some anhydrite crystals were cleaved with a dissecting needle while being observed with a stereomicroscope. Thin sections of core NXC-15 were made and examined.

 Description of cores

17. Drawings, brief descriptions, and saw-cut locations for the 78 cores from hole WP-1 are included in plates 2-40. Plate 1 shows the position of all the cores from hole WP-1 by depth. Tables 1 and 2 contain results of specific-gravity, absorption, and insoluble-residue determinations on selected cores. The grain-size analyses of the insoluble residue from 20 salt cores are shown in plates 41-60. Plate 61 shows the grain-size distribution obtained by taking the average of the combined insoluble residues. The mineralogical composition of selected cores from hole WP-1 as determined by X-ray examination is shown in table 3. The size and shape of halite grains in a typical salt core are shown in photograph 1 and plate 62.

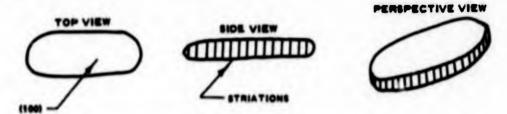
Photograph 2 shows the size, shape, and orientation of the gray anhydritic

bands in a typical salt core. Detailed descriptions of the sample cores before they were subjected to creep, triaxial extension, tensile, and uniaxial compression tests are given in the following paragraphs. Descriptions of the cores after these physical tests are given in paragraphs 22-42.

- 18. Cap rock cores. The eight cap rock cores (NXC-14 through -21), representing scattered depths from 1012.0 to 1412.0 ft, are described in the following subparagraphs.
 - Cores NXC-14 and -15 (1012.0 to 1012.3 ft and 1020.0 to 1020.3 ft). Core NXC-14 was a vuggy piece of carbonate rock with alternating irregular bands of light and dark rock (plate 2). X-ray analysis indicated that this core was all limestone (calcite, see table 3). Core NXC-15 resembled NXC-14 and contained numerous, well-healed fractures (plate 2). However, NXC-15 had a specific gravity of 3.34 as measured by the mercury-displacement method. Since this specific gravity was much higher than that expected for limestone, the specific gravity was remeasured by Method CRD-C 107-60 using kerosene instead of water, and an extensive X-ray examination was made. The new specific gravity was 3.25 (table 1). The rock in core NXC-15 was found to contain calcite (CaCO3, specific gravity 2.71), strontianite (SrCO₃, specific gravity 3.76 ± 0.02), and celestite (SrSO₄, specific gravity 3.97 ± 0.01) (table 3). The presence of the strontium minerals explains the high specific gravity. The presence of these minerals in salt dome cap rock has been reported before and is fairly common. Consideration of the X-ray data in conjunction with the peak intensities, mass-absorption coefficients, and the specific gravity of the core suggested that the three minerals were probably present as five parts calcite, three parts strontianite, and two parts celestite. The X-ray data also suggested that the strontium carbonate contained some calcium substituting for strontium. The closest available cores above and below NXC-15 (NXC-14 and -16, respectively) were examined in an attempt to determine the thickness of the strontium-carbonate rock present. Core NXC-16 was definitely anhydrite, and core NXC-14, which bore some resemblance to core NXC-15, was all calcite (table 3). Thus, the vertical extent of the minerals found in core NXC-15 could not be determined from the cores and data available. Subsequently it was found that the part of core NXC-2, hole WP-4, from a similar depth was identical with the rock in core NXC-15 (table 3). This indicated a definite lateral extent for the zone of strontium-carbonate rock. Thin sections of core NXC-15 indicated that, like piece A from core NXC-2, the rock was a dense mosaic of anhedral calcite and

- strontianite crystals with scattered patches of anhedral celestite crystals.
- Cores MXC-16. -17, -21, -19, -20, and -18 (scattered depths from 1103.5 to 1412.0 ft). These six cores were composed of dense and massive, fine- to medium-grained, bluish-gray anhydrite rock (plates 3-5). The reported specific gravities of NXC-21, -19, and -18, determined by the mercurydisplacement method, were considered high for anhydrite so they were romeasured by Method CRD-C 107-60 (table 1). NXC-21, -19, and -18 were also examined by X-ray diffraction and emission. The composition of these cores as determined by X-ray diffraction was anhydrite with trace amounts of calcite and dolomite (table 3). Traces of iron, silicon, and strontium, in addition to major quantities of calcium, were noted. These trace elements did not show up as other minerals and were probably carried largely as impurities or substitutions in the anhydrite, calcite, and dolomite. The specific-gravity rechack values (table 1) correlated well with the indicated X-ray composition, thus indicating that the original values reported were somewhat too high.
- 19. Salt cores. Logs of 70 cores from the salt were prepared (plates 6-40). These cores were from scattered depths ranging from 1553.5 to 2703.0 ft. Core DC-5 was the only one reported as pure salt (plate 24). Although it lacked the gray anhydritic bands common to the other cores, it was found to be slightly impure (table 1). Cores DC-44, -37, -39, -46, -67, -56, and -59, representing depths from 2398.8 to 2630.5 ft, were from the region in which it was proposed to make the cavity in which the Project DRIBBLE charges were to be placed and detonated.
 - Composition and appearance. All of the salt cores were from dense, massive, relatively unfractured, impure rock salt, which consisted of halite (NaCl) with minor amounts of anhydrite (CaSO4) and trace amounts of calcite (CaCO3) and dolomite (CaCO3.MgCO3). The halite was colorless (transparent) or white (translucent), and sometimes showed cleavage traces. The areas of purer halite, measured perpendicular to the anhydritic gray bands, were never more than 3 or 4 in. thick in the cores examined. The more anhydritic parts of the salt were gray, steeply dipping, roughly parallel bands (ranging from a fraction of an inch to several inches in thickness) which alternated with zones of less anhydritic salt (see photograph 2); the effect of this alternation in color was to impart a gneissic appearance to the cores. The amounts of water-insoluble residue from portions of 20 of the cores representing depths from 1553.5 to 2685.5 ft are given in table 1. These residues ranged in amounts from slightly more than 1 percent to 22 percent, averaging 9.1 percent. Table 1 shows that there was no detectable pattern

of residue content versus depth; thus, residue content was believed to correlate with structure rather than with depth. In other words, the amount of insoluble residue was determined by the position of a core in the hole in relation to the steeply dipping, parallel bands of gray anhydritic salt. The results of the X-ray examination (table 3) of insoluble residues, as sieve fractions from core DC-20, as composite samples from cores DC-5 and -46A, and as hand-picked composite samples from various cores, together with brief examination of all insoluble residues by stereomicroscope, showed the following: (1) the mineral anhydrite made up about 98 percent of all water-insoluble residues; (2) a brown ferroan calcite was present in all insoluble residues as a very minor constituent; it was concentrated in the material retained on the Nos. 30 and 50 sieves as aggregates of anhedral grains; (3) a trace of tan ferroan anhedral dolomite crystals, some of which were zoned, was present largely in the sizes passing the No. 50 sieve; (4) a trace of reddishbrown, slightly magnetic, ferruginous aggregates of anhydrite, calcite, and amorphous iron oxide was found largely in the fractions retained on the Nos. 30 and 50 sieves; (5) trace amounts of transparent yellow sulfur crystals were seen in some residues; they did not show on the X-ray diffraction charts; and (6) trace amounts of other minerals were observed by microscope but not identified by X-ray. The residue from cores DC-20, -5, and -46A represented maximum, minimum, and median values, respectively (table 1). The composition and amounts of insoluble residues are generally in good agreement with other data reported for salt domes in the Gulf Coast area. 6 Most of the anhydrite was in the salt as discrete, subhedral, clear crystals; the various sieve fractions separated from the insoluble residues contained mostly individual grains of anhydrite, but there were occasional aggregates of anhydrite where the grains had grown in contact. The appearance of the usual anhydrite grain from the salt is shown in the sketches below. The



crystals grew mainly on the (100) pinacoid faces; the striations shown on the side pinacoids in the sketches were believed to be vicinal or underdeveloped dome faces formed as the crystals grew from solution. The results of 20 specificgravity determinations on 20 anhydrite grains selected from the No. 16 sieve fraction of the insoluble residue from core DC-28 are shown in table 2; the averaged specific-gravity

- value of 2.92 was used, along with the simplifying assumption that all of the insoluble residues were anhydrite, to calculate what the specific gravity of the 20 salt cores listed in table 1 should be. The excellent agreement shown by the calculated and measured specific gravities for 10 cores in table 1 indicates that it should be feasible to calculate (1) the specific gravity of each salt core if the amount of insoluble residue is known, or (2) the composition of the salt core if the specific gravity is known.
- Structure. The only observable structure in the salt was that indicated by the position of the gray anhydrite-rich bands of salt, and these were often faint or indistinct, especially so since the cores could not be washed when they were logged before testing. The gray zones appeared to represent parallel bands, ranging from a fraction of an inch to several inches in thickness, which generally had a dip of about 60 to 90 degrees in the hole WP-1 cores examined (see photograph 2). The thickness of the areas of colorless purer salt in these cores was usually 3 to 4 in. or less. The bands of light-colored salt (pure) and gray anhydritic salt (impure) appear to represent the "year rings" described by Taylor for other Gulf Coast salt domes, the alternation from band to band representing periodic changes in conditions of deposition. Taylor says that the dark bands usually average 1 to 4 in. in thickness, that the clear bands are usually thicker, and that either type may exceed 12 in. in thickness. The cores examined in hole WP-1 (and hole WP-4 as well) generally conform to this description except that the maximum band thickness observed was less than 12 in. (plates 6-40). In general, the lithologic sequence shown by the cores examined is that expected for a salt dome.
- Texture. The halite grains were usually anhedral in shape with irregular surfaces; they ranged from 1/16 (or smaller) to 1-1/2 in. in maximum dimension with the usual size being 1/4 to 1/2 in. They tended to be aligned so that their longest axis was parallel to the dip of the gray anhydritic bands. The size and shape of halite grains in a typical salt core are shown in photograph 1 and plate 62. Note the anhedral shape, grain size, and sinuous grain contacts. There were two vertical gray anhydritic bands in core DC-4A, but they do not show well in photograph 1. The grains do not usually have such visible borders; this was induced by the method of sample preparation to make them visible in a picture. Plates 41-60 show the grain size and frequency distribution of the insoluble residues from 20 salt cores from depths ranging from 1553.5 to 2685.5 ft. Plate 61 shows the same information as the average of the 20 individual results shown in plates 41-60. A comparison of plate 61 with any of the others shows that they are all remarkably alike; however, the particles in the cores with small amounts of insoluble residues tended to be somewhat finer

than those in the cores with high percentages of insoluble residues. The maximum grain size in the insoluble residues was about 5 by 2 by 1 mm; most of the grains would pass a No. 16 sieve, which has openings of 1.19 mm. The maximum size of most of the grains in the insoluble residues was less than 1 mm.

Examination of Cores After Physical Tests

Physical test conditions

20. Only the 4-15/16-in.-diameter cores were subjected to physical tests. All of the cores tested were examined after the tests to determine the mode and cause of failure, the effect of lithologic variables, or other features of interest which might be apparent. The cores examined and the testing conditions and results follow:

| Core | Load and Temperature | |
|---------------|----------------------|--|
| CD Serial No. | Conditions | Remarks |
| TAT-1-DC-30B | 750 psi, 150 F | Tested 2000 hr |
| -18B | 1750 psi, 150 F | Tested 2000 hr |
| -19B | 2250 psi, 150 F | Tested 2000 hr |
| -40A | 3000 psi, 150 F | Specimen failed by diagonal fracture after 11 min |
| -70B | 750 psi, 150 F | Retest of 30B conditions, tested 2000 hr |
| -68B | 1750 psi, 150 F | Retest of 18B conditions, tested 2000 hr |
| -15B | 525 psi, 73 F | Tested 2000 hr |
| -33B | 1750 psi, 73 F | Tested 2000 hr |
| -23B | 2250 psi, 73 F | Specimen failed by general rupture after 4 to 5 days |
| -14C | 3000 psi, 73 F | Specimen failed by diagonal fracture after 5 hr 50 min |
| -69B | 2250 psi, 73 F | Retest of 23B conditions, tested 2000 hr |

Triaxial Extension Test

Core Applied Loads Remarks

TAT-1-DC-48A 2000-psi lateral load Tested 1000 hr 1000-psi axial load

-67B 2500-psi lateral load Tested 1000 hr 1000-psi axial load

(Continued)

Triaxial Extension Test

| Core | Applied Loads | Remarks | | | |
|--------------|---|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| TAT-1-DC-51B | 3000-psi lateral load 500-psi axial load | Tested 1000 hr | | | |
| -16B | 3425-psi lateral load 300-psi axial load | Failed after 213 hr by breaking | | | |
| -49A | 3850-psi lateral load 100-psi axial load | Failed after 1 day by breaking | | | |

Tensile Test

| | TOMOTEC TOOL | |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Core | Ultimate Strength psi | Remarks |
| TAT-1-DC-10B | 147 | Specimen parted |
| -10C | 144 | Specimen parted |
| -10D | 123 | Specimen parted |
| -2B | 115 | Specimen parted |
| -21B | 85 | Specimen parted |
| -32B | 106 | Specimen parted |
| | | |

Imiaxial Compression Test by Incremental Loading

| Core | Load Applied to Break Core in | Remarks |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| TAT-1-DC-45B -29A -29B -37B -43B -46B | l day 5 days 30 days 1 day 5 days | Cores tended to break into double cones |
| -62A -63B -62B | 30 days 1 day 5 days 30 days | |

Uniaxial Compression Standard and Cyclic Tests

| | | Ultimate Strength | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|------|----------|--------|
| Core | Conditions | psi | | Remarks | |
| TAT-1-DC-4B | Continuous loading | 3590 | Core | remained | intact |
| -4D | 1 unloading cycle | 3550 | Core | remained | intact |
| -44B | Continuous loading | 3700 | Core | remained | intact |
| -41B | l unloading cycle | 3660 | Core | remained | intact |
| -8c | Continuous loading | 3200 | Core | remained | intact |
| -8B | 1 unloading cycle | 3230 | Core | remained | intact |
| -11C | Continuous loading | 3050 | Core | remained | intact |
| -11D | 1 unloading cycle | 3120 | Core | remained | intact |
| -12B | Continuous loading | 3110 | Core | remained | intact |
| -12C | 1 unloading cycle | 3300 | Core | remained | intact |

| Imigvial Commession Length-to | -Di | ameter | Test |
|-------------------------------|-----|--------|------|
|-------------------------------|-----|--------|------|

| Core | Ratio of Length to Diameter, L/D | Ultimate Strength psi | Remarks |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| TAT-1-DC-7B | 1/1 | 4140 | All 18 cores were intact after test was completed |
| -7C | 1/1 | 4160 | |
| -37A | 1/1 | 4450 | |
| -6B | 1.5/1 | 3220 | |
| -6D | 1.5/1 | 3270 | |
| -6E | 1.5/1 | 3380 | |
| -7D | 2/1 | 3350 | |
| -7E | 2/1 | 3350 | |
| -3B | 2/1 | 3260 | |
| -3C | 2/1 | 3410 | |
| -5B | 2/1 | 2750 | |
| -5C | 2/1 | 3000 | |
| -31B | 2.5/1 | 3500 | |
| -34B | 2.5/1 | 3515 | |
| -36B | 2.5/1 | 3810 | |
| -9B | 3/1 | 3450 | |
| -9D | 3/1 | 3400 | |
| -57B | 3/1 | 3240 | |

Uniaxial Tests for Compressive Strength Under Cyclic Loading

| Core | Conditions* | Ultimate Strength psi | Remarks |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|--|
| mam_1_DC_13B | Fast at 73 F | 4190 | Core broke into pieces |
| -26B | | 3665 | Core remained intact; most of core surface lost |
| -20B | Fast at 150 F | 3770 | Core remained intact; most of core surface lost |
| -28B | Fast at 150 F | 3490 | Core remained intact; mi- nor surface loss |
| -35B | Slow at 73 F | 3770 | Core remained intact; mod- erate surface loss |
| -56B | Slow at 73 F | 3330 | Core remained intact; mod- erate surface loss |
| -35A | Slow at 150 F | 3770 | Core remained intact; no surface loss |
| -59B | Slow at 150 F | 3710 | Cor remained intact; no surface loss |

^{* &#}x27;Fast" consisted of loading and unloading cores to an estimated 75 percent of ultimate strength five times before loading to failure. "Slow" consisted of loading and unloading cores to an estimated 75 percent of ultimate strength two times before loading to failure.

Examination procedures

- 21. The groups of cores from each type of test were arranged to separate such variables of the test as temperature, pressure, etc. The cores were examined, using a stereomicroscope as needed, to determine mode of failure and other pertinent features. The petrographic data developed in the pretest examination of cores and such other available information as specific gravity and the dynamic modulus of elasticity were considered in an effort to relate them to differences shown by the physical test results. Photographs 3-9 and plates 62-66 illustrate salient features or general appearance of the cores. Several thin sections were prepared from core DC-19B, which was tested for creep for 2000 hr at 2250 psi and 150 F, and these sections were examined with a petrographic microscope (plate 63). Description of cores
- 22. Creep test specimens. Eleven cores were tested for creep, five at 73 F and six at 150 F. In each group, one core was to be tested at 750 psi, one at 1750 psi, one at 2250 psi, and one at 3000 psi. In the 73 F group, the low-pressure core was tested at 525 psi instead of 750 psi by accident. The other three cores were retests of the 73 F core at 2250 psi (DC-23B) and the 150 F cores at 750 and 1750 psi (DC-30B and -18B). These additional tests were made because DC-23B had failed early in the test with unequal strain on opposite gage lines, DC-30B had been overloaded for a short time during test, and DC-18B had shown extremely unequal deformation from side to side (i.e. had deformed faster on one side than on the other).
- 23. The two cores tested at 3000 psi (DC-40A and -14C) failed by breaking diagonally along the length; one broke after 11 min and the other after 5 hr 50 min. Core DC-23B, tested at 2250 psi, failed by general rupture, but remained intact for 4 to 5 days of testing. The other eight cores completed the test to 2000 hr without failure. The appearance of the original eight cores after creep testing is illustrated in plate 64 and photograph 3, which show the core deformation that occurred under the different pressures and the relation of the fracture surface of the failed cores to the core and to the gray anhydritic bands. The following paragraphs summarize results of the posttest examination of the creep test specimens.

- 24. The specimens tended to deform, in proportion to the pressure applied, by becoming barrel-shaped. No deformation of the three cores tested at the lowest pressures (DC-15B, -30B, and 70B) was apparent. Those tested at 1750 psi (DC-33B, -18B, and -68B) shortened about 1/2 in. The cores which did not fail at 2250 psi (DC-19B and -69B) shortened about 1 in.
- 25. A series of short, open or closed, shallow cracks parallel to the long axis of the cores was seen. The cracks tended to be straight rather than to follow grain boundaries. In addition to the overall lateral bulging of the cores, a roughening of the surfaces was noted in scattered areas. These were points of movement resulting in an outward buckling of the surface. The core surface was easily pried away at these points. The cores whitened as they deformed. This was due to refraction effects where air gaps were created at grain boundaries, cleavages, and fractures.
- 26. Microscopi: examination of thin sections from a core tested for creep (DC-19B) and from a portion of an untested core (NXC-11 from hole WP-4) showed several differences (plates 62 and 63). Core DC-19B often showed air gaps at halite grain boundaries where the grains were no longer in contact; short vertical fractures (pressure-release fractures) tended to develop in the compressed halite grains, and cleavage traces were seen in many of the compressed halite grains. The cleavage traces probably represented glide translations within the grains parallel to the [110] planes. The grain size was greatly reduced as the cores deformed under pressure. It was possible to find all of the above-mentioned features in thin sections of untested cores, but their number and effect on grain size were greatly enhanced by compression.
- 27. No effects of the difference in temperature used in the tests were apparent.
- 28. The two cores that failed at 3000 psi (DC-40A and -14C) behaved like the other creep test cores before failing. Core DC-14C, which broke after 5 hr 50 min, shortened about 1 in., turned white, developed short vertical cracks, and failed with a loud noise. It remained intact, but the pieces could be lifted apart. Core DC-40A, which failed after 11 min, showed the same effects but to a lesser degree due to the lack of time for distortion. It essentially fractured before much distortion occurred. The

plane of fracture dipped about 60 degrees from horizontal in each core. The fracture surface was fairly plane in DC-40A and curved in DC-14B. The fracture surface was parallel to the plane of the gray anhydritic bands in core DC-40A and perpendicular thereto in DC-14C (plate 64). This indicates that the direction of fracture was determined by the magnitude of the pressure and not by the position of the gray anhydritic bands.

- 29. Core DC-23B shortened about 3/4 in., developed extreme lateral bulging, and failed by general rupture. It resembled many of the other salt cores that failed in some form of compression test. The core was intact but fragile. Its condition precluded much examination. No reason for its failure was noted or deduced from other data. Two other cores (DC-19B and -69B) were tested 2000 hr at 2250 psi without failure. Also, four 4-15/16-in.-diameter salt cores from the Carey Salt Mine, Winnfield, Ia.,* were creep-tested at 2250 psi, two at 73 F and two at 150 F, for 1006 to 1030 hr without failure. The successful testing of six out of seven cores at this pressure suggests that the failure of DC-23B was probably due to a hidden defect. The reported dynamic modulus of elasticity for core DC-23 was 4.82 × 10⁶ psi. This value is in the usual range for most of the salt cores from this hole, so there is no clear indication of such a flaw.
- 30. It was concluded that the behavior and appearance of the cores were influenced solely by the testing conditions, and that no lithologic explanation existed or was needed. It seemed probable that any similar-sized core of salt dome rock salt would fail under conditions of test (i.e. sustained load of 3000 psi) similar to those that resulted in failure of cores DC-40A and -14C.
- 31. Triaxial extension test specimens. Five cores were subjected to triaxial extension tests. Cores DC-48A, -67B, and -51B withstood the prescribed 1000 hr of test; core DC-49A failed by breaking after 1 day of test; core DC-16B failed by breaking after 213 hr of test. Plate 65 shows sketches of the cores, depicting the approximate deformation, and the appearance and location of cracks and complete breaks. The following paragraphs summarize the results of the posttest examination of the triaxial extension test specimens.

^{*} Tests of the Winnfield cores are described in Appendix A.

- 32. The cores deformed by lengthening in proportion to the effective lateral pressure applied, the elongation ranging from about 1/8 to 1/2 in. No other dimensional changes were evident. It is pointed out, however, that the initial lengths for the five samples were not the same.
- 33. The cores tended to develop short, straight, open or closed cracks parallel to the core ends. The number and severity of these cracks increased with increasing effective lateral pressure. These were pressure-release cracks similar to those that formed in the creep test specimens, and were considered normal.
- 34. Core DC-16B failed by breaking about 1 in. from and parallel to the top of the specimen. The break went both through and around grains; this resulted in an irregular surface like those observed on untested cores or on cores broken in tension (photographs 8 and 9).
- 35. Core DC-49A failed test by breaking about 3 in. from and parallel to the bottom surface of the core. The fracture surface was quite smooth in comparison to that of core DC-16B and all others seen on untested cores or cores broken in tension. This smoothness was due to the break generally progressing through grains rather than around them.
- 36. The following possibly explains the difference in the types of broken surfaces which developed in these salt cores. Every broken surface was a composite of partings that occurred between grains at their boundaries, and within grains by fracture or cleavage or both; this results in an irregular surface. The irregular fracture surface of core DC-16B is evidence that grain boundary separation was a major factor in its formation. The smoothness of the fracture surface of core DC-49A is evidence that grain boundary separation was much less a factor. This means that the differences in effective lateral pressure resulted in different response times available for failure to occur. The force on core DC-16B, although it demanded failure, allowed time for the separation to follow the line of least resistance. The line of least resistance would be between grains rather than through them. The overwhelming force on core DC-49A demanded a faster response, and consequently the fracture occurred through more grains than around them.
- 37. Plate 65 shows the presence of continuous cracks near the ends of core DC-49A and near the bottom of core DC-51B. These cracks were

potential core failures. They were as deep as 1/2 in. in some spots and perhaps deeper, although they were generally much shallower. (Their location was at the point where the protective cap ended. This cap was placed over the core ends to prevent entry of the membrane at the piston-core end interface under pressure.) These continuous cracks were not found in the two cores tested at the lowest lateral pressures nor on DC-16B. However, core DC-16B failed near the point where the cap ended. The fact that continuous cracks tended to form at the points where the cores were being "held" as they elongated was not surprising.

- 38. It was concluded that the cores were essentially homogeneous and that no lithologic variables were involved in the triaxial extension test results. It also seemed probable that any similar-sized salt core from a salt dome would fail under conditions similar to those which resulted in failure of cores DC-16B and -49A.
- 39. Tensile test specimens. Six cores were tested to failure in tension. During removal of the cores from the test rig after test, some of the capping compound melted and covered much of the surfaces of the test specimens. For this reason it was only feasible to examine the broken surfaces produced during the test. Each core developed breaks 2 to 3 in. from and approximately parallel to the core ends. The broken surfaces were irregular like those seen on untested cores. This indicated that the surfaces resulted from partings within grains by fractures or cleavages or both, and between grains by separation at their boundaries. A typical broken surface is shown in photographs 8 and 9. The cores were lithologically similar, and the variation in test results was considered normal.
- 40. Uniaxial compression test specimens. Cores were tested to failure in four kinds of uniaxial compression tests. The cores ranged from intact to fragmented; all exhibited the same characteristics in varying degrees. Photographs 4-7 illustrate six salt cores after failure in the uniaxial compression cyclic test; they show the range in appearance of all the salt cores tested in compression. In general, the cores tended to fracture into double cones at an angle of about 60 degrees from the core ends. When pieces of the surface of cores tested in compression broke loose, they characteristically were elongated parallel to the long axis of the core and their inner surface was parallel to the curved outer surface.

Plate 66 is a sketch made to illustrate these features on a typical core that broke into pieces.

- a. Uniaxial compression test by incremental loading. Nine cores were subjected to this test. It consisted of estimating their ultimate strength in compression (a value of 3400 psi was used) and loading the cores in increments designed to produce failure after 1, 5, and 30 days. Three cores were tested at each of the three conditions. Since all of the cores broke into pieces and much of the surfaces was thereby lost, the posttest examination of the cores yielded little information. The fracture surfaces tended to be curved rather than plane, and the cores tended to break into double cones (plate 66). The core fragments were similar to those of core DC-13B which was broken in the uniaxial compression cyclic test (photograph 4).
- Uniaxial compression standard and cyclic tests. Ten cores were tested as follows. Five were loaded to failure in compression (standard test as for a 6- by 12-in. concrete cylinder). Five companion cores were loaded to 1660 psi at 20 psi per sec, unloaded at the same rate, and then loaded to failure (cyclic test). Posttest examination revealed that all cores were intact. They showed a slight bulging in the middle, occasional grain loss from the surfaces, and development of scattered, short, vertical, open fractures. These fractures tended to wander a bit and tried to follow grain boundaries. This was in contrast to the vertical cracks which developed in the creep-tested cores and cut across grain boundaries. There was no appreciable difference in the appearance of the 10 cores nor in the results of the two types of tests (i.e. standard and cyclic). No appreciable variation in lithology existed, and it was concluded that the cores exhibited features generally associated with compression test specimens. No significance was seen in the range in ultimate strengths.
- Uniaxial compression length-to-diameter test. Eighteen cores were cut to length-to-diameter ratios of 1 to 1, 1.5 to 1, 2 to 1, 2.5 to 1, and 3 to 1. Six cores were tested at the 2-to-1 ratio, and three at each of the others. After testing, all 18 cores were intact and exhibited the same features of bulging, surface grain loss, and open vertical cracks as described for the 10 cores tested by the compression standard and cyclic tests. The two specimens from core DC-5 were known to be unusual for the following reasons: Core DC-5 contained only 1.2 percent insoluble residue (table 1) and had been logged as pure halite. It was the only 4-15/16-in.-diameter core received (plate 24) and tested from Tatum which represented a real lithologic variant of the standard pure and impure salt mixtures of the other cores. Its dynamic modulus of elasticity for the 20-in. length from which core specimens DC-5B and -5C were

cut was 1.28 x 10° psi; this was much lower than the usual values recorded for the other cores (4 to 5×10^6 psi). The ultimate strengths of 2750 and 3000 psi for DC-5B and -5C were the lowest recorded for the 18 length-to-diameter cores tested. Cores DC-5B and -5C were compared carefully with other cores, after which cores DC-5B, -3C, and -7E were selected as representing the extremes of lithology and test results, and were saved down the middle in brine and examined carefully. The only real difference noted in the appearance of the length-to-diameter cores was the lithology of DC-5. Two other salt cores lithologically similar to DC-5 were tested in the entire program. Core 15, 4-15/16 in. in diameter and obtained from the salt dome at Winnfield, was tested for creep, but dynamic modulus of elasticity was not determined; it had intermediate total strain but lower creep strain than the three cores of impure salt tested under similar conditions with it. The portion of core NXC-10 from Tatum hole WP-4 that was sawed for testing was almost pure salt. This portion was tested for creep, and its dynamic modulus of elasticity was determined as 4.97×10^{0} psi. This indicated that the low modulus of elasticity value reported for core DC-5 was probably due to a hidden flaw and did not represent a true difference between modulus of elasticity for pure and impure salt. With this in mind the lower compression test results for DC-5B and -5C were probably due to flawed specimens. The range of test results for the other 16 specimens seemed reasonable.

- d. Uniaxial compression cyclic test. Eight cores were tested. Four cores, two at 73 F and two at 150 F, were loaded to an estimated 75 percent of ultimate compressive strength (2500 psi) at 20 psi per sec five times, and unloaded at the same rate; they were then loaded to failure. This was called the fast method. The same number of cores at the same temperatures were treated similarly except that there were only two loading and unloading cycles. This was the slow method. The cores showed the lateral bulging, vertical cracking, and grain loss common to all of the salt cores tested to failure in compression (photographs 4-7). Some were intact, and others had lost considerable amounts of their surfaces; core DC-13B broke into two large and many smaller pieces (photograph 4).
- 41. The core fragments resulting from testing to failure in the incremental-loading compression test and the 18 intact but failed cores from the uniaxial compression length-to-diameter tests represented the extremes in appearance shown by all of the salt cores tested to failure in compression. The eight cyclic test cores generally varied in appearance between these extremes.
 - 42. Neither temperature variation nor number of loading cycles had

any apparent effect on the test results. The amount of insoluble residue had been determined for six of the cyclic test cores (table 1); it was noticed that core DC-13B which had the lowest residue, 4.0 percent, had the highest compressive strength of the eight cores subjected to the uniaxial compression cyclic test. Consideration of the insoluble residues shown in table 1 revealed the following. The other two of the three cores with the low insoluble residues (cores D?-5B and -5C with 1.2 percent residue) had the lowest compressive strength of the 18 cores tested in the length-to-diameter test. Core DC-23B, 3.1 percent insoluble residue, failed by rupture in the creep test after 4 to 5 days. It was not possible to draw conclusions from these three comparisons since both DC-5 and -23B were suspected of being flawed specimens.

Summary of Results

Examinations of cores before physical tests

- 43. Of the 78 cores from hole WP-1 in the Tatum salt dome examined (plates 2-40), eight were from the cap rock, and represented scattered depths ranging from 1012.0 to 1412.0 ft. The remaining 70 cores were from the salt and represented scattered depths from 1553.5 to 2703.0 ft. The information developed from this examination was in good agreement with that available in the literature for other salt domes in the Gulf Coast area. 1,6
- 44. Plate 1 shows that the cores from holes WP-1 and WP-4 were very similar when comparisons at equivalent depths could be made. Quartz was a possible trace constituent in some of the cap rock cores but was not identified in any of the salt cores. In general, it could be said that there was essentially no quartz in the samples examined representing depths from 1012.0 to 2703.0 ft.
- 45. Cap rock cores. Core NXC-14 from 1012.0 to 1012.3 ft was vuggy linestone with alternating bands of light and dark rock (plate 2, table 3). Core NXC-15 from 1020.0 to 1020.3 ft consisted of dense, somewhat vuggy rock that resembled core NXC-14 (plate 2). However, NXC-15 contained the strontium minerals, strontianite (SrCO₃) and celestite (SrSO₄), in addition to calcite (table 3). The minerals were estimated to be present as five

parts calcite, three parts strontianite, and two parts celestite. Due to the presence of the heavy strontium minerals, this core had a specific gravity of 3.25 (table 1). Part of core NXC-2 from a depth of 999.0 to 1000.0 ft in the other hole, WP-4, was found to have the same composition (table 3). The vertical extent of the zone of strontium-rich carbonate rock could not be determined from the few cores available for examination.

- 46. The other six cap rock cores (NXC-16, -17, -21, -19, -20, and -18) were composed of dense and massive, fine- to medium-grained unhydrite which contained traces of calcite and dolomite (table 3).
- 47. Sait cores. Sixty-nine of the salt cores (plates 6-40) were logged as impure salt while one (plate 24) was called pure salt. A typical core of impure salt consisted of clear or translucent halite with one or more thin longitudinal bands of gray anhydritic halite in it (photograph 2); these tands had dips ranging from about 60 to 90 degrees. The areas of purer salt contained anhedral halite grains with sinuous grain boundaries (photograph 1 and plate 62); the average halite grain size was about 1/4 to 1/2 in. in maximum dimension, and the major axis of the grains tended to follow the dip, although not so steeply, of the gray anhydritic bands. The gray bands contained halite grains, concentrations of anhydrite grains, and trace amounts of carbonates. The halite grains tended to be smaller than those in the areas of purer salt. The anhydrite occurred as small, clear, subhedral to euhedral, blocky grains less than 1 mm in maximum dimension; most anhydrite grains were discrete particles, out some aggregates of grains did occur. While the anhydrite was concentrated in the gray bands, no portions of the cores were ever truly free of it. Grain-size distribution is shown in plates 41-61 for the insoluble residues from portions of 20 cores and for the average of the 20.
 - a. Composition. Table 1 shows the amounts of insoluble residue present in portions of 20 salt cores representing depths from 1553.5 to 2685.5 ft. The amounts ranged from 1.2 to 22.0 percent; the average insoluble residue of the 20 cores was 9.1 percent. The variation in amount of residue with depth was random rather than regular. The insoluble residue was essentially anhydrite, but also contained trace amounts of calcite, dolomite, and amorphous iron oxide (table 3). The remainder of each core was halite. Thus the indicated range of composition for all of the cores was about 80 to 99 percent halite with the remainder being essentially

anhydrite. Twenty anhydrite grains were selected from the insoluble residues, and the specific gravity of each was determined (table 2). These values ranged from 2.83 to 2.98 and averaged 2.92. This average value was used with the amount of insoluble residue and the amount and specific gravity of salt to calculate the specific gravities for the cores shown in table 1. The generally excellent agreement between calculated and measured specific gravities for the 10 cores (table 1) where comparison was possible suggests that it should be possible to calculate core composition if its specific gravity is known, or to calculate the specific gravity of a core if the amount of insoluble residue is known. Such a calculation should provide a close approximation of the true value for all of the salt cores from Tatum hole WP-1. Corrections for absorption were ignored with little apparent effect since the absorptions were generally small.

- b. Cavity area (2350.0 to 2650.0 ft). The cores from these depths were similar to the typical salt core just described.
- Comparison with salt from Winnfield. The cores from Winnfield were easily divisible into three lithologic varieties on the basis of appearance (see Appendix A). The salt cores from the Tatum dome tended to be of one lithologic type, and were composed of nearly vertical, alternating zones of pure and impure salt. This type was most like the Group I type of the Winnfield cores. The anhydrite grains were closely packed in the impure portions of the Winnfield salt, and they were somewhat opaque on exposed surfaces due to discoloration by what was believed to have been alteration of iron-bearing dolomite grains to iron halides. The impure zones of the Winnfield salt showed offsets and discontinuities due to movement after solidification. In the Tatum salt, the anhydrite grains were less closely packed in the impure areas, they were clear, and there was no apparent alteration of carbonates and subsequent discoloration. No distortion of the impure gray bands was noticed. The dip of impure bands in the Winnfield salt was generally near 60 degrees and ranged from about 30 to 60 degrees, whereas it ranged from about 60 to 90 degrees in the Tatum salt (photograph 2).

Examination of cores after physical tests

48. Creep test specimens. In general, the cores deformed in the creep tests in proportion to the pressure applied by tending to become barrel-shaped. Other visible signs of change were the presence of short, open or closed cracks parallel to the long axis of the cores; small, raised areas on the surfaces where material had broken loose; and a whitening of

the cores. The whitening was due to refraction effects at newly developed air gaps inside the cores. The cracks tended to be straight and independent of grain boundaries. In contrast, the vertical cracks developed in cores tested to failure in compression tended to wander in an effort to follow grain boundaries.

- 49. Thin-section study of untested and deformed cores revealed that deformation took place by separation of grains at their boundaries, by the development of fractures that were generally vertical, and by translation gliding along cleavage planes that were probably parallel to the [110] directions in the grains² (plates 62 and 63). The cores tested at the lowest pressures (525 and 750 psi) did not deform visibly, and those tested at the highest stress of 3000 psi (DC-14C and -40A) failed by breaking on a lengthwise diagonal which had a dip of about 60 degrees. The fracture surface appeared to be independent of the gray anhydritic bands (plate 64). The reason for the failure of core DC-23B at 2250 psi after 4 to 5 days of testing was not apparent after examination. However, since six of seven specimens from the Winnfield and Tatum salt were tested successfully at this pressure, it seemed likely that DC-23B failed because of a hidden flaw.
- 50. It was concluded that the creep specimens showed the types of deformation to be expected, that the visible effects of testing at different temperatures were negligible, and that any salt dome salt core of equivalent size would probably fail at a sustained load of 3000 psi before 2000 hr.
- 51. Triaxial extension test specimens. Five cores were tested, three completing 1000 hr of test and the other two failing by breaking. Core DC-16B failed after 213 hr, and DC-49A failed after 1 day. The observed response of the specimens to the test was somewhat similar to that listed for the creep test specimens. The cores elongated in response to the effective lateral pressure applied, and short, straight cracks formed to accommodate this deformation. The number and severity of the cracks increased with increasing effective lateral pressure. Shallow continuous cracks tended to form near the ends of cores DC-51B and -49A where they were covered by a protective cap. Core DC-16B broke about 1 in. from and parallel to the top surface of the core; core DC-49A broke about 3 in. from and parallel to the bottom surface. The broken surface of DC-16B was the

usual irregular one similar to those seen on other failed cores. The broken surface of DC-49A was relatively smooth. The nature of the broken surface was believed to be due to the time the core had for breaking. The core subjected to lower effective lateral pressure (DC-16B) failed more slowly, and the break had time to follow the line of least resistance. In a salt core, this would mean parting at grain boundaries, and the broken surface would be irregular. The break in the core subjected to the higher pressure did not have time to follow grain boundaries. This resulted in the smoother broken surface on core DC-49A. This concept does not hold for the broken surfaces developed on cores DC-14C and -40A in creep testing. They failed after about 6 hr and 11 min, respectively, along diagonal surfaces which were irregular.

- 52. It was concluded that the test conditions which caused failure of cores DC-16B and -49A would probably cause failure of most or all salt dome salt cores of this size.
- 53. Tensile test specimens. Six cores were tested and examined. During removal of the fractured cores from the test apparatus the capping compound melted and covered the outer surfaces of specimens. Therefore these surfaces could not be examined. The broken surfaces resulting from the tensile tests were the usual irregular ones. Photographs 8 and 9 show a typical surface.
- 54. Compression test specimens. A total of 45 cores were tested for ultimate compressive strength by means of four different kinds of uniaxial compression tests. Such variables as loading rate, number of loading cycles, length-to-diameter ratio, and temperature were involved.
- 55. Some of the cores remained intact and others disintegrated. The common signs of distortion were a lateral bulging, popouts where bits of the surface had loosened, and development of scattered, short, vertical cracks. These cracks tended to wander in an effort to follow grain boundaries. This was in contrast to the vertical cracks developed in creeptested cores which tended to ignore grain boundaries. Photographs 4-7 show examples of varying degrees of core deformation. All of the cores were apparently trying to fracture into double cones with the fracture angles dipping about 60 degrees from the horizontal. When cores actually broke, elongated pieces of surface came loose. Plate 66 shows an idealized sketch

of core failure and the kind of curved surface fragments which normally accompanied core failure.

- 56. Comparison of test results of pure and impure salt cores. Core 15 from Winnfield and core DC-5 from hole WP-1 in the Tatum salt dome were pure salt. Cores DC-13, -25, and -39 from hole WP-1 in the Tatum dome had small amounts of insoluble residues (table 1). Core DC-39 was not subjected to physical tests.
 - were creep-tested at 2250 psi and 19 (4-15/16 in. in diameter) and 3 were creep-tested at 2250 psi and 73 F for 1006 hr. Cores 19, 2, and 3 were impure salt. Core 15 had a total deformation that was intermediate and a creep deformation that was low for this group of four cores.
 - $\frac{\text{Tatum hole WP-l cores.}}{\text{elasticity of 1.28}\times10^6} \text{Core DC-5 had a dynamic modulus of psi. Pieces B and C were tested}$ for ultimate strength at a length-to-diameter ratio of 2 to 1 in the uniaxial compression length-to-diameter tests. These pieces had the lowest strengths of the six cores in these ratios and the lowest of the 18 tested in this manner. It is believed that this core contained a hidden flaw which caused the low test values. This is based on the fact that the pure salt portion of core NXC-10 from hole WP-4 had a dynamic modulus of elasticity of 4.97×10^6 psi. Core DC-13 had 4.0 percent insoluble residue (table 1); piece B was tested for ultimate strength in the uniaxial compression cyclic test and had the highest strength of the eight cores tested. Its insoluble residue was known to be lower than that of five of the other cores (table 1) tested in this fashion. Core DC-23 had 3.1 percent insoluble residue (table 1) and a dynamic modulus of elasticity of 4.82×10^6 psi. Piece B failed after 4 to 5 days when tested for creep at 2250 psi and 73 F. Six of the seven 4-15/16-in.-diameter salt cores from Winnfield and Tatum were successfully tested at the same pressure. It seems probable, but is not certain that DC-23B failed because of a hidden flaw.

PART III: PETROGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF CORES FROM HOLE WP-4 IN TATUM SALT DOME

Identification of Cores

- 57. Seventeen NX cores representing part of the material taken from hole WP-4 in the Tatum salt dome were received at the Waterways Experiment Station for laboratory tests and petrographic examination.
- 58. A petrographic report of 13 cores from hole WP-4, dated 18 May 1961, and Report No. 5 of Test Data for Project DRIBBLE, dated 14 November 1961, are included herein as Appendix B and Appendix C, respectively. A summary log of all 17 cores from hole WP-4 is shown in plate 1. Information concerning the positions of saw cuts made on the cores was available only for core NXC-2. Hole WP-4 core data are shown below:

| CD Serial No. | Depth, ft | Date Received | Lithology |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| TAT-1-NXC-1 | 948.0 to 948.5 | 12 May 1961 | Limestone |
| -2 | 999.0 to 1000.0 | 12 May 1961 | Limestone and strontium-rich carbonate rock |
| -3 | 1107.0 to 1108.0 | 12 May 1961 | Anhydrite |
| -4 | 1199.5 to 1200.5 | 12 May 1961 | Anhydrite |
| - 5 | 1299.0 to 1300.0 | 12 May 1961 | Anhydrite |
| -6 | 1392.5 to 1393.5 | 12 May 1961 | Anhydrite |
| -7 | 1491.5 to 1492.5 | 12 May 1961 | Pure rock salt |
| -8 | 2317.0 to 2318.0 | 12 May 1961 | Impure rock salt |
| - 9 | 2402.0 to 2403.0 | 12 May 1961 | Impure rock salt |
| -22 | 2462.5 to 2463.5 | 27 Sept 1961 | Impure rock salt |
| - 23 | 2476.0 to 2477.4 | 27 Sept 1961 | Impure rock salt |
| -11 | 2495.5 to 2496.5 | 12 May 1961 | Impure rock salt |
| -24 | 2522.0 to 2522.9 | 27 Sept 1961 | Impure rock salt |
| -25 | 2533.0 to 2534.0 | 27 Sept 1961 | Impure rock salt |
| -10 | 2603.5 to 2604.5 | 12 May 1961 | Impure rock salt |
| -12 | 2647.5 to 2648.6 | 18 May 1961 | Impure rock salt |
| - 13 | 2698.5 to 2699.5 | 18 May 1961 | Impure rock salt |

Examination and Description of Cores

Examination

59. Each core was measured, and examined visually and with a stereo-microscope as needed to prepare core logs; some cores were tested with dilute hydrochloric acid. Thin-section examinations were made on pieces of seven of the cores (four salt, one carbonate rock, and two anhydrite).

Sketches and photographs were made to show typical features.

60. In addition, the following examination of cores NXC-1 and -2 (948.0 to 948.5 ft and 999.0 to 1000.0 ft) was made, supplementing that given in Appendix B. Core NXC-2 was available in three pieces after it had been sawed and tested for specific gravity (see log of NXC-2, fig. Bl of Appendix B). A portion of one end piece from NXC-2 and part of NXC-1 were pulverized and examined by X-ray diffraction as a tightly packed powder. The specific gravity of each piece of NXC-2 was determined, and a thin section of each piece was made and examined. Table 4 shows the specific-gravity and X-ray results for both cores. The X-ray analysis was made using an X-ray diffractometer with nickel-filtered copper radiation at 49 kv and 16 ma.

Table 4

Composition and Specific Gravities of Cores NXC-1 and -2 from Hole WP-4

| | | Bulk Spe | cific Gravi | ty | | Minerals Ide | entified by | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------|--------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | | Mercury | Kerosene | | | X-kay Dif | fraction | |
| CD Serial No.* | Depth, ft | Displace- ment** | Displace- ment | <u>†</u> | Cal- cite | Strontianite | Celestite | Feld- spar |
| TAT-1-NXC-1 | 948.0 to 948.5 | | | | Major | | | Trace |
| TAT-1-NXC-2 | 999.0 to 1000.0 | 2.79 | 2.83 | | | | | |
| Piece A | | | | 3.35 | Major | Major, < calcite | Major, < calcite | |
| Piece B | | | | 2.89 | | Not exa | umined | |
| Piece C | | | | 2.73 | | Not exa | umined | |
| | | | Avg | 3.01 | | | | |

* Pieces A, B, and C are from core NXC-2; their location in the core is shown in the log of that core (see fig. B1, Appendix B).

Description of cores

- 61. The log of core NXC-2 (Appendix B) was modified to include the results of later work described below.
- 62. Cap rock carbonate cores NXC-1 and -2. The X-ray examination of NXC-1 (table 4) showed it to be limestone as had previously been indicated on its log. Core NXC-2 was examined in detail because it

^{**} Core NXC-2 was received in two pieces; the two values were obtained from the same piece. The first value was determined by the mercury-displacement method and lies between bulk and apparent specific gravities since the core was weighed as received. The second value was determined by Method CRD-C 107-60 in Handbook for Concrete and Cement; Reresone was used instead of water.

t These values are for a different piece of core than those under **. They were determined by Method CRD-C 107-60; the samples were neither soaked nor oven-dried first. Therefore, the reported values are somewhere between those for bulk and apparent specific gravities. Kerosene was used instead of water.

resembled, and came from about the same depth as core NXC-15 of hole WP-1 which contained strontium minerals (see paragraph 18a). Part of core NXC-2 was found to contain the same minerals in about the same proportions as core NXC-15. However, NXC-2 graded within its own length into limestone without strontium minerals. This was the reason for the range of specific-gravity values shown in table 4 for pieces A, B, and C. Study of thin sections of the strontium-carbonate rock showed it to consist of a dense mosaic of anhedral calcite and strontianite crystals with scattered patches of anhedral celestite crystals. It was not possible to determine the thickness of the strontium-carbonate rock since adjacent cores were lacking. It did not extend to the next higher or lower core (NXC-1 and -3).

- 63. Cap rock anhydrite cores NXC-3, -4, -5, and -6. These cores, representing depths of 1107.0 to 1393.5 ft, were composed of dense and massive, fine- to medium-grained, bluish-gray anhydrite rock. Thin-section study of portions of cores NXC-4 and -5 showed the rock to be a mass of subhedral blocky anhydrite grains; smaller grains of anhedral anhydrite filled the interstices and gave it a tightly packed, dense texture.
- 64. Salt cores NXC-7 to -13 and -22 to -25 (scattered depths from 1491.5 to 2699.5 ft). Cores NXC-9 to -12 and -22 to -25, representing depths from 2402.0 to 2648.6 ft, were from the region proposed for the cavity.
 - a. Composition and appearance. The cores consisted of dense, massive rock salt (halite) which contained a small amount of anhydrite; the latter was usually estimated to be around 5 percent, never more than 10 percent, and less than 1 percent for cores NXC-7 and -13. The halite was colorless (transparent) or white (translucent) and sometimes showed cleavage traces. The anhydrite crystals were usually discrete particles; the individual anhydrite crystals were clear, but in the cores they tended to occur together; this resulted in a grayish color for those parts of the cores which contained concentrations of anhydrite. Because of these color differences, the cores had a banded or gneissic appearance wherein areas of white or transparent halite alternated with patchy, steeply dipping bands of gray anhydrite-rich salt (photograph 2).
 - b. Structure. The remarks concerning structure of the cores obtained from hole WP-1 (paragraph 19b) also apply here, the only difference being that the dip of the gray anhydritic bands was less in hole WP-4. In the salt, roughly parallel gray bands of anhydritic salt, ranging from a

fraction of an inch to several inches thick, were found to dip generally from about 50 to 60 degrees in the cores examined. Core NXC-13 was an exception to this in that the dip of the anhydrite zones was only 25 to 30 degrees. The distance between the gray bands was always a matter of inches, i.e. never more than 1 ft.

c. Texture. The halite grains were usually anhedral in shape with irregular surfaces; they ranged from 1/16 (or smaller) to 1-1/2 in. in maximum dimension with the usual size being 1/4 to 1/2 in. The halite grains tended to be aligned so that their longest axis was parallel to the dip of the gray anhydritic bands. The size and shape of halite grains in a typical salt core are shown in photograph 1 and plate 62. The anhydrite was usually euhedral to subhedral blocky grains less than 1 mm in maximum dimension. This size observation agrees with the insoluble-residue grain-size data given for the 20 salt cores from hole WP-1.

Examination of Cores After Physical Tests

Physical test conditions

- 65. One NX salt core was tested to failure in compression to provide material for thin-section study. Two other NX salt cores were examined after creep testing; one of these failed, one did not. The two cores that failed behaved like similar larger cores from hole WP-1; the core that did not fail was unlike larger cores tested in similar fashion from hole WP-1. However, the differences in behavior were considered normal.
 - 66. The testing conditions for the three NX cores were as follows:

| CD Serial No. | Conditions | Remarks |
|---------------|---|---|
| | Cree | p Test |
| TAT-1-NXC-10 | 2500 psi at 73 F and 45 to 55 percent relative humidity | Tested in tandem with NXC-12; test was stopped when NXC-12 failed |
| -12 | 2500 psi at 73 F and 45 to 55 percent relative humidity | Specimen failed by rupture after 1705 hr |
| | Uniaxial Co | mpression Test |

No test results reported; this sample was tested to failure for

petrographic study

-11 2500 psi for 6 min

Examination procedures

67. Cores NXC-10 and -12 were examined visually. Core NXC-11 was vacuum-impregnated with epoxy resin after failure; this procedure essentially glued the core back together so that thin sections could be made. Eight thin sections were made from the failed core and examined with a petrographic microscope. Thin sections from untested portions of cores NXC-7, -10, -11, and -12 were examined for comparison.

Description of cores

- 68. Creep test specimens. The portion of NXC-12 which was tested was a mixture of pure and impure salt; it was like the great majority of salt cores from holes WP-1 and WP-4. It failed on a diagonal fracture from end to end; the plane of this fracture dipped about 60 degrees and cut across the anhydritic zone. This failure was similar to those of cores DC-14C and -4OA from hole WP-1 in their creep test (plate 64 and photograph 3).
- 69. The portion of core NXC-10 subjected to the creep test was almost pure salt like the Group III material from Winnfield (Appendix A). This core showed none of the features common to the specimens from hole WP-1 creep-tested at similar pressures. It had neither shortened (the length was still 5-1/2 in.) nor bulged laterally; there were no roughened surface areas where bits of surface had broken loose, and no open vertical cracks were observed.
- 70. The dynamic modulus of elasticity was 4.97×10^6 psi for NXC-10 and 4.55×10^6 psi for NXC-12. Neither the petrographic nor the dynamic modulus data would lead one to expect great differences in the results of creep tests of the two cores under similar conditions. However, such a difference did exist since NXC-12 failed in the creep test while NXC-10 did not.
- 71. The scanty test data developed for pure versus impure salt in this program do not indicate a clear difference between the types. The pure salt core, No. 15, from Winnfield gave intermediate results for total deformation in creep testing; the portions of the pure salt core, DC-5, from hole WP-1 gave low compressive strength results and had a very low dynamic modulus of elasticity. The most plausible explanation for failure of core NXC-12 is that this core had a hidden flaw or flaws that were not

detected in the pretest examination and that the flaw or flaws caused its failure. The lack of deformation of core NXC-10 as compared with larger cores (from hole WP-1) tested similarly was considered explained by flaw theory which states that smaller specimens should be stronger. In other words, higher pressures would be needed before NX cores would show deformation like that observed for the larger cores.

72. Uniaxial compression test specimen. The appearance of core NXC-11 was like that of the cores from hole WP-1 tested in compression which remained intact after failure. Thin sections made from NXC-11 showed the same features of grain-size reduction, failure by gliding on cleavage planes, open fractures, and open grain boundaries as the sections made from core DC-19B from hole WP-1 had shown. Plates 62 and 63 illustrate the changes that developed as a result of compressive forces.

Summary of Results

Examinations of cores before physical tests

- 73. Of the 17 NX cores from hole WP-4 in the Tatum salt dome examined (see core sketches in Appendices B and C), six were from the cap rock; they represented scattered depths from 948.0 to 1393.5 ft. The remaining 11 cores were from the salt and represented scattered depths from 1491.5 to 2699.5 ft. Plate 1 shows that the cores from this hole and from hole WP-1 were alike where depth comparisons could be made. Only the limestone core NXC-1 from 948.0 to 948.5 ft showed any quartz. It contained a small amount as mentioned in Appendix B. The position of this core in the hole was about 50 ft higher than that of any of the cores from hole WP-1.
- 74. The detailed descriptions of cap rock and salt cores in the summary of the results of the petrographic examination for the cores obtained from hole WP-1 apply equally well to the cores from this hole. Therefore, only brief descriptions are given below.
- 75. Cap rock cores. Core NXC-1 was limestone. Core NXC-2, representing depths from 999.0 to 1000.0 ft, ranged from limestone as in core NXC-1 to strontium-rich carbonate rock as in core NXC-15 from hole WP-1. Cores NXC-3, -4, -5, and -6 were dense, massive anhydrite rock.
 - 76. Salt cores. Core NXC-7 was pure rock salt; no core from a

comparable depth in hole WP-1 was available. The remaining salt cores were impure rock salt consisting of halite containing nearly vertical bands of gray anhydritic salt (photograph 2). The halite grains were anhedral with sinuous boundaries (photograph 1 and plate 62); they averaged about 1/4 to 1/2 in. in maximum dimension, and they tended to be oriented with their longest axis roughly parallel to the gray anhydritic bands. The gray bands contained halite, anhydrite, and traces of carbonates. The average arount of insoluble residue was probably about 9 percent, and most of this was anhydrite. The anhydrite was present as small (less than 1 mm), clear, subhedral to euhedral, blocky grains. It should be possible to calculate the composition of these salt cores if the specific gravity is known, and vice versa, using data developed and presented earlier herein.

77. Cores from cavity area (depths of 2350.0 to 2650.0 ft). The eight salt cores from these depths were like the salt cores from hole WP-4 that were examined.

Examination of cores after physical tests

- 78. Creep test specimens. Cores NXC-10 and -12 were tested in tandem, and core NXC-12 failed along a diagonal fracture which extended from end to end. This failure was like those which occurred in cores DC-14C and -4OA from hole WF-1 during their creep test.
- 79. Core NXC-12 was a mixture of pure and impure anhydritic salt. Core NXC-10 as received was a mixture of pure and impure salt, but the portion sawed from it for the creep test was pure salt; the dynamic modulus of elasticity of the pure salt portion was 4.97 × 10⁶ psi. The deformation recorded for this core was about half that for NXC-12 throughout the test. In addition, core NXC-10 did not show the visible signs of deformation common to the larger cores from hole WP-1 tested at similar pressures. This lack of deformation was considered normal since by flaw theory smaller specimens should be stronger. Apparently NX salt cores require higher pressures before they will exhibit the type of deformation shown by the larger salt cores. The conclusion is that core NXC-10 was stronger than core NXC-12 in this test. However, the test data developed for pure salt are too scanty to show a clear-cut superiority for either the pure or impure salt cores. Therefore, the most reasonable explanation for the

test differences in cores NXC-10 and -12 appeared to be that NXC-12 contained a hidden flaw which lowered its strength.

80. Compression test specimen. Core NXC-11 was broken in compression, and thin sections were then made from it for examination. Thin sections from untested cores were also examined for comparison. Plates 62 and 63 illustrate the typical changes that developed during deformation under compression. The core deformed by separation along grain boundaries, development of nearly vertical fractures, and translation gliding along cleavages parallel to the [110] direction. These were the same features observed in cores from hole WP-1 that had been subjected to uniaxial compression.

PART IV: PHYSICAL TESTS ON TATUM CORES

Tests for Uniaxial Compressive Strength

81. Uniaxial compression testing was performed by two methods:
(a) standard and cyclic tests, and (b) length-to-diameter tests. All test specimens were obtained from nominal 4-15/16-in.-diameter cores from hole WP-1. Testing was done on a 440,000-lb-capacity Baldwin testing machine. Standard and cyclic tests

82. Five pairs of specimens were tested in this series. In the standard tests, one specimen of each pair was tested to failure by the standard unconfined method, i.e. loaded at a specified rate to failure similar to the way a 6- by 12-in. concrete cylinder would be tested. In the cyclic tests, the other specimen of each pair was loaded to 1660 psi, unloaded, and then loaded to failure. Strain was measured with a compressometer with two diametrically opposed 6-in. gage lines. Fig. 1 shows a specimen in the compression machine with a compressometer attached. The



Fig. 1. Testing a core specimen in compression

numbers of the core specimens tested and the depths from which they were obtained are shown below. Stress-strain curves obtained in tests of the 10 specimens are shown in plates 67-76.

| | | Depti Core | |
|------|---------------|---------------|--------|
| Core | Test | From | То |
| 4B | Standard | 2341.0 | 2344.0 |
| 4D | Single cyclic | 2341.0 | 2344.0 |
| 44B | Standard | 2398.8 | 2400.5 |
| 41B | Single cyclic | 2406.0 | 2407.2 |
| 8c | Standard | 21,59.5 | 2463.0 |
| 8B | Single cyclic | 2459.5 | 2463.0 |
| 11C | Standard | 2613.0 | 2616.0 |
| 11D | Single cyclic | 2613.0 | 2616.0 |
| 12B | Standard | 2700.0 | 2703.0 |
| 12C | Single cyclic | 2700.0 | 2703.0 |

Length-to-diameter tests

83. Five groups of specimens with various length-to-diameter ratios as shown below were tested in this series. Strain measurements were made

| | | Depti Core, | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Core | L/D | From | To |
| 37A | 1/1 | 2453.2 | 2455.0 |
| 7B | 1/1 | 2545.0 | 2548.0 |
| 7C | 1/1 | 2545.0 | 2548.0 |
| 6B | 1.5/1 | 2445.0 | 2448.0 |
| 6D | 1.5/1 | 2445.0 | 2448.0 |
| 6E | 1.5/1 | 2445.0 | 2448.0 |
| 5B 5C* 3C 3B* 7D 7E | 2/1 2/1 2/1 2/1 2/1 2/1 | 2333.0 2333.0 2393.0 2393.0 2545.0 | 2335.0 2335.0 2397.0 2397.0 2548.0 2548.0 |
| 36B* | 2.5/1 | 2261.0 | 2262.5 |
| 34B | 2.5/1 | 2290.8 | 2292.5 |
| 31B | 2.5/1 | 2322.8 | 2324.4 |
| 9B | 3/1 | 2559.5 | 2563.0 |
| 9D* | 3/1 | 2559.5 | 2563.0 |
| 57B | 3/1 | 2602.4 | 2604.0 |

^{*} Poisson's ratio determinations made on these cores.

with SR-4 strain gages on the specimens of L/D less than 2 as the compressometer used in the standard and cyclic tests could not be used on these specimens. Therefore, some of the strain measurements at high stress were missed because of the rapid movements of the strain indicator dial.

- 84. Poisson's ratio determinations were made on four specimens with a mechanical yoke similar to that shown in fig. 4, page 44.
- 85. Stress-strain data for each of the 18 specimens are given in plates 77-94. Specimen 6B was accidentally loaded to an undetermined magnitude, unloaded, and then reloaded to failure. This is probably the reason for the unusual shape of the stress-strain curve for that specimen (see plate 80).

Uniaxial Tensile Strength Tests

86. Six 4-15/16-in.-diameter core specimens (see tabulation below)

from hole WP-1 were tested with a self-aligning direct tension apparatus. The ends of each specimen were anchored in the apparatus with a sulfur-silica compound.

| | | _ |
|------|--------|--------|
| | Depth | of |
| | Core, | ft |
| Core | From | To |
| | | |
| 32B | 2158.8 | 2160.0 |
| 21B | 2179.3 | 2180.8 |
| 2B | 2249.0 | 2252.0 |
| 10B | 2656.0 | 2659.0 |
| 10C | 2656.0 | 2659.0 |
| 10D | 2656.0 | 2659.0 |
| | | |

Stress was applied at a constant rate with a Riehle testing machine, 30,000-lb capacity, and strain was measured with SR-4 strain gages.

Fig. 2 shows the test setup. Stress-strain curves obtained are presented in plates 95-100.



Fig. 2. Tensile test setup

Uniaxial Tests for Compressive Strength Under Multiple Cyclic Loading

87. Selected specimens were tested in compression under the following conditions:

- a. Five cycles of stressing to 2500 psi and unloading to 0 at rate of 20 psi per sec and temperature of 73 F; loaded to failure on sixth cycle. This was termed "fast" loading.
- b. Same as a except that core was tested at temperature of 150 F.
- c. Two cycles of stressing to 2500 psi and unloading to 0 at rate of 105 psi per hr and temperature of 73 F; loaded to failure on third cycle. This was termed "slow" loading.
- \underline{d} . Same as \underline{c} except that core was tested at temperature of 150 F.

Two specimens were tested for each condition. A Baldwin universal testing machine (440,000-lb capacity) was used for conditions a and b, and a spring-

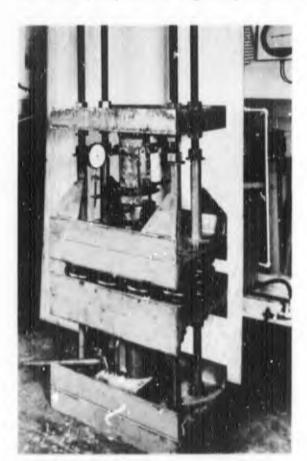


Fig. 3. Spring-loaded frame used in compression tests

loaded frame for conditions <u>c</u> and <u>d</u>. Strain was measured with a compressometer with two diametrically opposed 6-in. gage lines. A commercial heating pad was used to maintain the test temperature for <u>b</u>. For <u>d</u>, the rigs were placed in a heated room and maintained at 150 F throughout the test. Fig. 3 shows the test setup for conditions <u>c</u> and <u>d</u>. The specimens, depths at which the cores were obtained, and test conditions are listed below:

| | Loading | Depth of Core, ft |
|---|--|--|
| Core | Condition | From To |
| 13B 20D 26B 28B 35B 35A 56B | Fast at 73 F Fast at 150 F Fast at 73 F Fast at 150 F Slow at 73 F Slow at 150 F Slow at 73 F Slow at 73 F | 1657.3 1658.5 1681.0 1682.2 1994.5 1995.6 2035.0 2036.4 2262.5 2264.2 2262.5 2264.2 2584.0 2585.3 2629.3 2630.5 |

Plates 101-108 present the stress-strain curves obtained for the eight test specimens.

Uniaxial Compression Tests by Incremental Loading

88. Three groups of three specimens each were loaded in compression to failure at periods of 1 day, 5 days, and 30 days (see tabulation below).

| | Time to | Depth Core, | |
|------|---------------|----------------|--------|
| Core | Failure, days | From | To |
| 45B | 1 | 2271.0 | 2272.1 |
| 29A | 5 | 2287.2 | 2289.0 |
| 29B | 30 | 2287.2 | 2289.0 |
| 37B | 1 | 2453.2 | 2455.0 |
| 43B | 5 | 2486.5 | 2488.0 |
| 46B | 30 | 2539.5 | 2540.8 |
| 62A | 1 | 2693.1 | 2695.0 |
| 63B | 5 | 2659.8 | 2662.5 |
| 62B | 30 | 2693.1 | 2695.0 |

Load was applied in increments of 420 psi per hr for the 1-day specimens, 350 psi per 12 hr for the 5-day specimens, and 200 psi per 48 hr for the 30-day specimens. A spring-loaded frame (see fig. 3) was used, and strain was measured with a compressometer with two diametrically opposed 6-in. gage lines. Since it would have been difficult to obtain a final (ultimate) strain reading and because of the damage that would have been sustained by the gages if they had been left attached to the core specimen until failure of the specimen, the gages were removed when failure of the specimen appeared imminent. Specimen failure was considered imminent when any or all of the following were noted: (a) unusually large increase in strain; (b) cracking sound; and (c) spalling of crystals from the test specimen. The stress-strain data obtained in these tests are presented in plates 109-117.

Uniaxial Creep Tests

89. Eight cores from hole WP-1 were subjected to uniaxial creep tests at two temperatures and four stress conditions as shown below:

| Core | 0 | | Depth of Core, ft | | |
|------|---------|-------------|-------------------|--------|--|
| Core | Temp, F | Stress, psi | From | To | |
| 15B | 73 | 525 | 1720.0 | 1721.5 | |
| 33B | 73 | 1750 | 2151.8 | 2153 5 | |
| 23B* | 73 | 2250 | 2196.5 | 2198.0 | |
| 14C | 73 | 3000 | 1672.0 | 1573.6 | |
| 30B | 150 | 750 | 2239.8 | 2241.5 | |
| 18B | 150 | 1750 | 1679.0 | 1680.5 | |
| 19B* | 150 | 2250 | 1723.2 | 1724.7 | |
| 40A | 150 | 3000 | 2216.5 | 2218.0 | |

^{*} Poisson's ratio determinations made on these cores.

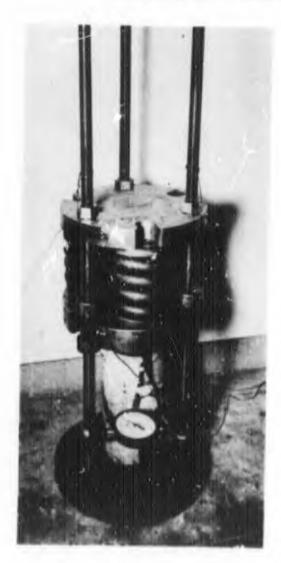


Fig. 4. Creep test setup

Load was maintained by means of a springloaded frame (see fig. 4) for 2000 hr. The creep load was maintained within +5 percent of that specified. Vertical strain was measured, by means of a mechanical strain gage, on two diametrically opposite 6-in. gage lines between small brass inserts embedded in the specimen. Readings were taken as necessary to fully define the creep curve. Lateral strain was determined on several specimens by a dial gage and yoke as shown in fig. 4. Poisson's ratio was determined from the two strain measurements on two of the creep test specimens. A ratio greater than 0.50 indicates that the volume increased under load. This is probably what happened, since the specimens loaded to a high degree of stress attained a "puffy" appearance. Apparently there was a vertical splitting along the clystal boundaries which resulted in the high Poisson's ratio values.

90. Specimens 18B and 23B tilted in the loading frame, and specimen 30B, scheduled to be tested at 750 psi, was accidentally overloaded.*

Three additional specimens were selected and tested as replacements as shown below:

| | | | Dept | h of |
|------|---------|-------------|--------|--------|
| | 0 | | Core | ft |
| Core | Temp, F | Stress, psi | From | To |
| 68B | 150 | 1750 | 1725.0 | 1726.6 |
| 69B* | 73 | 2250 | 2161.5 | 2163.0 |
| 70B | 150 | 750 | 2238.0 | 2239.8 |

^{*} Poisson's ratio determination made on this core.

- 91. Two 2-1/8-in.-diameter specimens (NXC-10 and -12) from hole WP-1/4 were tested together, one on top of the other, in one frame at 2500-psi creep load. Core NXC-12 failed after approximately 1700 hr. Although core NXC-10 had not failed, testing thereof was discontinued because of the failure of core NXC-12. These tests were the only destructive physical tests made on cores from hole WP-4.
- 92. Strain-time data obtained on the 11 creep test specimens are presented in plates 118-130.

Triaxial Extension Tests

93. Triaxial tests are performed to determine the strength of materials and the manner, rate, and amount of strain that materials undergo when stress is applied in all directions. In the usual triaxial tests, a constant lateral minor stress is applied to the cylindrical surface of a right cylindrical specimen and the major stress is applied along the

t During adjustment of the load on specimen 30B at test age of 3 hr, the load was inadvertently increased to 1500 psi. It remained at this level for an undetermined period of time (but less than 1 hr). When it was realized that the load was too high, it was decreased to 750 psi. No reading was made of the strain while the load was at 1500 psi. The next reading taken was the scheduled one at 5 hr. A large increase in strain resulted from the short-time overload. This strain was not wholly elastic, since full recovery did not occur on release of load. In fact, the strain appeared to increase, but at a diminishing rate, until an age of about 24 hr, after which it seemed to fall off very gradually and very slightly for the remainder of the test.

longitudinal axis. In the triaxial extension test, the axial stress is the minor stress and the lateral stress is the major stress. Such a test is, in effect, a tension test. Either type of test can be a quick test, i.e. completed in a few minutes, or a creep test in which the stresses are maintained for a long period of time. All tests performed in this study were triaxial extension tests in which the stresses were maintained on the specimens for a period of 1000 hr or to failure, whichever occurred first.

- 94. The specimens were tested in a high-pressure triaxial test chamber, and a spring-loaded frame was utilized for axial-load maintenance. Since the lateral stresses exceeded the axial stresses, special equipment which permitted these stresses to be applied independently was constructed. The diameter of the axial-loading piston was identical with that of the test specimens, and the swivel head, which allowed for minor nonperpendicularity of the top surface of the specimen to the longitudinal axis, was placed on the outside of the chamber. In addition, it was necessary to machine the flat surfaces of each specimen on a lathe since the sulfursilica capping material used for all other tests tended to rermit failure to occur where the cap joined the core under the differential stresses applied in the triaxial extension tests. A 1/8-in.-thick neoprene rubber membrane, used to insulate the specimen from the confining fluid (castor oil), was fastened to the lower baseplate and piston by means of hose clamps. A steel shim, approximately 1 in. wide by 0.009 in. thick, was required under the membrane and over the joints between the specimen and the baseplate and piston to prevent the pressurized fluid from puncturing the membrane.
 - 95. Strain was measured mechanically with diametrically opposed dial gages mounted on the loading piston, and electrically with diametrically opposed SR-4 strain gages mounted on the test specimen. The strain gages had the capacity to measure up to 10 percent strain. Epoxy resin was used to bond the strain gages to the test specimens after other types of glue and gages proved unsuccessful for use under the applied pressures (up to 3850 psi). The epoxy was applied over as well as under the gage, and allowed to cure at 150 F for 20 hr immediately after application.
 - 96. Five triaxial extension tests were performed on large cores from hole WP-1. Axial and lateral loads were maintained within ±5 percent of

that specified. Fig. 5 shows the test setup. The specimens, test conditions, and depths were as follows:

| | | | Depti | n or |
|------|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|
| | Axial | Lateral | Core | , it |
| Core | Load, psi | Load, psi | From | To |
| 48A | 1000 | 2000 | 2456.7 | 2458.5 |
| 67B | 1000 | 2500 | 2557.0 | 2559.5 |
| 51B | 500 | 3000 | 2522.0 | 2523.5 |
| 16B | 300 | 3425 | 1822.5 | 1824.2 |
| 49A | 100 | 3850 | 2496.5 | 2498.3 |

97. Plates 131-135 show the data obtained for each specimen tested. It will be noted that there is a divergence of strain readings for all specimens except that subjected to the severest test condition (core 49A, plate 135). In order to determine if the difference in strain readings was due to creep of the bonding agent for the strain gages, a steel cylinder was instrumented and loaded in a similar manner to the salt specimens. The results obtained are shown in plate 136.

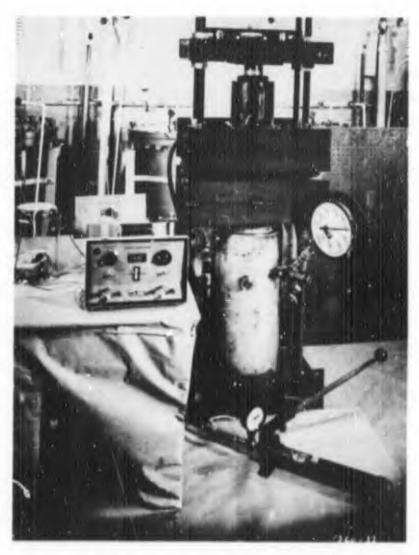


Fig. 5. Triaxial extension test setup

Strain measurements, compared with theoretical calculations, indicated very little creep of the epoxy glue. Apparently the difference in strain

measurements on the Tatum cores was actual; more strain is experienced in the center of the specimen than on the overall length. Recovery readings indicated a permanent set in the specimens, since little recovery was noted on the dial or the strain gages.

98. It can be seen in plate 131 that for the first 12 hr of test the mechanical measurements on specimen 48A were negative, indicating compression. Occurrence of compression in this test is very unlikely. Instead of compression of the test specimen, the measurements are probably the result of compression of a new gasket that had been recently installed in the base pedestal of the test chamber. If the mechanical strain were replotted starting after the loading cycle was completed (at 0.17 hr), agreement between methods of strain measurement would be very good.

Nondestructive Dynamic Tests

99. The dynamic testing consisted of sonic and ultrasonic tests on selected cores from holes WP-1 and WP-4. The ultrasonic pulse velocity of propagation of compressional waves was measured by means of a soniscope according to the method described in CRD-C 51 of the Handbook for Concrete and Cement. Sonic work consisted of determining the transverse and longitudinal frequencies of vibration according to CRD-C 18. From these were calculated the sonic pulse velocity, Young's modulus of elasticity (E), the modulus of rigidity, and Poisson's ratio. Satisfactory results were not obtained on all specimens due to unusual size, length, or condition of the specimen. Young's E, calculated from the transverse frequency, was obtained on all triarial and creep specimens for use in analyzing the data. All data are given in table 5.

Specific Gravity, Porosity, Permeability, and Interstitial Fluid

100. Eighteen specific-gravity determinations were made on cores from hole WP-1 and 11 on cores from hole WP-4 by weighing the core in air as received and dividing this weight by the volume of the specimen determined

Tuble 5 Results of Nondestructive Dynamic Tests

| | | Specimen | Specimen | Pulse Velocity, Ultrasonic | Sonic | Calcul | x 10 ⁻⁶ , pmi, ated from | Modulus of Rigidity G x 10 ⁻⁶ | | 's Entio |
|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--|--|----------|-----------|
| Core No. | Core Depth, ft From To | Dismeter in. | Is ngth in. | V. * * | V _B † | Transverse Frequency | Longitudinal Prequency | pei | Modulitt | Velocity: |
| | | | Hole | WP-1; Coordi | nates Ni | 0166,85, E80 | 040.83 | | | |
| NXC-184 | 1409.5 1412.0 | 2.12 | 18.00 | 18, 315 | 17,045 | 12.44 | 13.27 | 5.05 | 0.230 | 0.225 |
| NXC-198 | 1260.5 1262.8 | | 20.00 | 18,945 | 17,890 | 12.03 | 12.49 | 4.81 | 0.250 | 0.205 |
| NXC-20B | 1345.0 1347.0 | 2.12 | 20.00 | 18,555 | 16,760 | 9.91 | 10.84 | 4.20 | 0.180 | 0.260 |
| NXC-21B | 1181.0 1183.5 | 2.12 | 20.00 | 8. | •• | 11.93 | 12.43 | 4.92 | 0.210 | |
| DC-1 | 2244.0 2247.0 | 5.00 | 30.00 | * * | 12,965 | 4.95 | 5.01 | 2.33b | 0.0626 | |
| DC-1CC | 2244.0 2247.0 | | 12.50 | 13, 390 | | | • • | • • | | |
| DC-LDC | 2244.0 2247.0 | | 12.50 | 13,355 | • • | | •• | ** | | |
| DC-5 | 2249.0 2252.0 | | 30.00 | •• | 12,710 | 4.61 | 4.76 | 5.5110 | 0.0300 | ••• |
| DC-2 d | 2249.0 2252.0 | | 20.00 | •• | 10,050 | 3.90 | 2.93 | 1.64 | 0.189e | |
| Dr. 28. | 2249.0 2252.0 | | 10.00 | 12,220 | | | | • • | | |
| DC-5Cg | 2249.0 2252.0 | 5.00 | 10.00 | 12,705 | | •• | •• | •• | | |
| DC-3 | 2393.0 2397.0 | | 20.00 | 13,360 | 11,585 | la = 1.la | 3.92 | | es. | 0.295 |
| DC-5 | 2333.0 2335.0 | | 50.00 | 8,4550 | L,025 | 1.28 | 1.03 | B | a | 0.385b |
| DC-7 | 2545.0 2548.0 | | 20.00 | 13,845 | 12,695 | 4.62 | 4.63 | 8 | | 0.250 |
| DC-11 | 2613.0 2616.0 | | 20.00 | 13,735 | 12,600 | 4.55 | 4.61 | 8 | 84. | 0.250 |
| DC-15 | 2700.0 2703.0 | | 20.00 | 13,690 | 12,745 | 4.79 | 4.81 | 8 | n. | 0.225 |
| DC-14 | 1672.0 1673.6 | | 20.00 | 14,860 | 13, 195 | 4.86 | 4.97 | 2.04 | 0.190 | 0.280 |
| DC-14CE | 1672.0 1673.6 | | 12.88 | • • | •• | 4.4.7 | | - + | | |
| DC-15H | 1720.0 1721.5 | | 12.62 | •• | •• | 4.96 | •• | | | *** |
| DC-16 | 1822.5 1824.2 | | 20,00 | 14,955 | 12,910 | 4.80 | 4.90 | 2.01 | 0.190 | 0.300 |
| DC=1BB | 1679.0 1680.5 | | 12.38 | •• | | 4.82 | •• | | | |
| DC-19B | 1723.1 1724.7 | | 12.31 | •• | | 4.99 | ** | | | |
| DC-35 | 2097.3 2099.0 | | 20.00 | 14,505 | 13,055 | 4.93 | 4.93 | 2.02 | 0.220 | 0.265 |
| DC-23B | 2136.5 2195.0 | | 12.50 | • • | ** | 4.82 | | | | one. |
| DC-24 | 1990.5 1992.3 | 5.00 | 50.00 | 15,000 | 12,930 | 4.82 | la . 134 | 1.93 | 0.250 | 0.285 |
| DC-25 | 1947.2 1949.0 | 5.00 | 20.00 | 14,910 | 12,700 | 4.69 | 4.74 | 1.96 | 0.200 | 0.315 |
| DC-30B | 2239.8 2241.5 | 5.00 | 10.33 | • • | • • | 4.75 | •• | • | | |
| DC-33B | 2151.8 2153.5 | 5.00 | 1 50 | •• | | 4.95 | •• | •• | | |
| DC-4DA | 2216.5 2218.0 | 5.00 | 12.59 | | •• | 5.33 | | 0.10 | 0.102 | 0.285 |
| DC-tille | 1553.5 1555.0 | 4.88 | 19.00 | 14,820 | 13,080 | 5.01 | 5.07 | 2.10 | 0.193 | 0.275 |
| Box 116 | Unknown | 5.00 | 18.25 | 13,9-5 | 12,390 | 5.03 | 4.55 | | 0.233 | |
| BOA 225 | Unknown | 5.00 | 16.50 | 13, 195 | 10,865 | 4.33 | 3.47 | 1.81 | 0.196 | 0.325 |
| DC-38B | 2463.8 2465.5 | 9.90 | 10.00 | •• | •• | 5.39 | •• | •• | ••• | ••• |
| DC-49A | 24.94.5 24.93.3 | 4 (1) | 10.00 | •• | | 5.32 | • • | •• | ••• | |
| DC-48A | 2456.7 2458.5 | 4.90 | 10.00 | | • • | 5.13 | •• | •• | ••• | ••• |
| DC-51B | 2522.0 2523.5 | 4.88 | 10.00 | - • | •• | 4.25 | •• | •• | ••• | ••• |
| DC-68P | 1725.0 1726.0 | 5.00 | 13.00 | •• | • • | 4.36 | •• | •• | | ••• |
| DC-69B | 2161.5 2163.0 | 5.00 | 13.00 | •• | •• | 3.54 | •• | •• | | ••• |
| DC-70B | 2238.0 2239.8 | 5.00 | 13.00 9.88 | •• | * * | 4.55 | •• | •• | ••• | |
| DC-67B | 2557.0 2559.5 | 4,00 | | ** | •• | | | •• | ••• | |
| | | | Hole | WP-41 Coord | instes B | 9217.06, E92 | 72.30 | | | |
| 10XC-2 | 99).0 1000.0 | | 6.06 | 15,910 | •• | • • | •• | | *** | ••• |
| 10(C-3 | 1107.0 1108.0 | | 10.56 | 19,755 | • • | 12.65 | •• | •• | | *** |
| MKC-4 | 1199.5 1300.5 | 2.06 | 10.50 | 19,230 | | 14.03 | •• | • • | | |
| 10XC-5 | 129).0 1300.0 | 2.12 | 10.50 | | •• | 13.07 | 12.96 | 5.01 | 0.300 | |
| 10xc-6 | 1392.5 1397.5 | 2.12 | 62 | •• | •• | 12.61 | 12.46 | 4.98 | 0.270 | • • • |
| MC-T | 1491.5 1492.5 | 2.06 | 10.50 | 14,405 | •• | 5.23 | | ** | | *** |
| mc-8 | 2317.0 2318.0 | 2.06 | 10.50 | 14,035 | | 5.11 | •• | ** | | *** |
| INC-9 | 2402.0 2403.0 | | 10.56 | 13,510 | | 5.37 | 0 m | ** | | *** |
| MC-10 | 2603.5 2604.5 | 2.06 | 10.56 | 13,810 | •• | 4.97 | | ** | | *** |
| 10(C-1.1 | 2495.5 2496.5 | 2.06 | 10.56 | 13,270 | • • | 4.49 | •• | ** | ••• | *** |
| IXC-12 | 2/47.5 2/48.6 | | 10.56 | 12,805 | •• | 4.55 | | ** | ••• | *** |
| 10rc-13 | 243.5 269.5 | 2.60 | 10.56 | 12,645 | | 2.56 | ** | | | *** |
| BOR AL | Unknown | 2.06 | 20.00 | | 10,215 | 14.47 | 13.77 | 3.32b | | *** |
| Box 75 | Unkneren | 2.06 | 18.00 | 14,000 | 12,9% | 6.91 | 5.06 | 2.05 | 0.180 | 9.735 |

[•] Dimensions used in calculations.
• Determined on somiscope (CRD-C 51-51).
• Calculated from 21fg.
• Calculated from $\frac{K}{10} - 1$.
• Calculated from $(V_g/V_g)^2$.
• Unable to obtain satisfactory results.
• No confidence.
• Sawed from core 1.
• Sawed from core 2.
• This value previously reported informally as 0.160.
• Sawed from core 2'.
• Capped, sawed from core 1b.

by the mercury-displacement method described in American Petroleum Institute Recommended Practice No. 4 (API RP40).

- made on specimens from hole WP-1 and four on specimens from hole WP-4. The porosity was determined by the Washburn-Bunting Method (as shown in paragraph 3.5.12 on page 30 of above-mentioned API RP40) which involves the determination of the true effective pore volume of the core and the dividing of this volume by the bulk volume of the core. The permeability was determined by the gas-permeability method (as shown in section 3.4 of API RP40) which involves the measurement of the volume of air that will pass, under a known pressure, through a specimen of known volume in a certain period of time. The interstitial fluid was determined using the oven retort-atmospheric pressure equipment shown in fig. 3.53Fl on page 20 of API RP40 and the procedure described in section 4.3 of the same publication, and involves the vaporization and condensation for measurement of any fluid in the sample.
- apparent specific gravity were determined after some differences were noted between the specific gravities obtained by mercury displacement and those calculated from insoluble residue. The bulk specific gravity by kerosene displacement is determined by dividing the oven-dried specimen weight in air by the volume of the specimen including air voids. The apparent specific gravity is obtained by dividing the weight in air of the specimen with the voids filled with kerosene by the volume of the specimen excluding voids. The apparent specific gravity and the bulk specific gravity determined by kerosene displacement probably more nearly approach the correct value than the specific gravities determined by mercury displacement or those calculated from insoluble residue.
- 103. Results of the specific gravity, porosity, permeability, and interstitial fluid tests are presented in table 6.

Table 6 Results of Specific Gravity, Porosity, Permeability, and Interstitial Fluid Tests

| Core | Depth of Core, ft | Diameter of Core in. | Specific Gravity | | | Perme- ability | | Residual Liquid Saturations | |
|---------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | Bulk Mercury Dis- placement | Bulk Kerosene Dis- placement | Appar- ent | Milli- darcys H ri- zontal | Poros. | | of Space Total Water |
| | | | 1 | ole WP-1 | | | | | |
| NXC-14 | 1012.0-1012.3 | 2.125 | 2.634 | 2.656 | 2.688 | •• | •• | | |
| NXC-15 | 1020.0-1020.3 | 2.125 | 3.336 | 3.164 | 3.246 | | •• | | |
| NXC-21 | 1181.0-1183.5 | 2.125 | 3.079 | 2.945 | 2.950 | •• | •• | • | |
| NXC-19 | 1260.5-1262.8 | 2.125 | 3.119 | 2.940 | 2.95% | •• | • • | | - |
| NXC-20 | 1345.0-1347.0 | 2.125 | 2.927 | 2.953 | 2.977 | • • | •• | | |
| NXC-18 | 1409.5-1412.0 | 2.125 | 3.109 | 2.948 | 2.952 | •• | • | | |
| DC-64 | 1553.5-1555.0 | 5.0 | 2.167 | 2.205 | 2.207 | 6.01 | 3.00 | 0 | 1.7 |
| DC-14 | 1672.0-1673.6 | 5.0 | 2.298 | 2.194 | 2.195 | Trace | 5.30 | 0 | 1.1 |
| DC-16 | 1822.5-1824.2 | 5.0 | 2.317 | 2.207 | 2.218 | Trace | 3.30 | 0 | 1.5 |
| DC-25 | 1947.2-1949.0 | 5.0 | 2.297 | 2.205 | 2.206 | •• | •• | | |
| DC-26 | 1994.5-1995.6 | 5.0 | 2.322 | 2.211 | 2.206 | •• | •• | - | - |
| DC-22 | 2097.3-2099.0 | 5.0 | 2.291 | 2.200 | 2.198 | | | | • |
| DC-2 | 2249.0-2252.0 | 5.0 | 2.221 | 2.198 | 2.203 | | •• | • | • |
| DC-4 | 2341.0-2344 0 | 5.0 | 2,206 | 2.196 | 2.199 | 2.32 | 2.64 | 0 | 0 |
| DC-6 | 2445.0-2448.0 | 5.0 | 2.200 | 2.181 | 2.186 | •• | •• | - | • |
| DC-8 | 2459.5-2463.0 | 5.0 | 2.210 | 2.186 | 2.207 | 1.26 | 4.71 | 0 | 0 |
| DC-11 | 2613.0-2616.0 | 5.0 | 2.215 | 2.206 | 2.222 | 0.39 | 3.36 | 0 | 0 |
| DC-10 | 2656.0-2659.0 | 5.0 | 2.230 | 2.223 | 2.228 | 0.00 | 2.76 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | 1 | iole WP-4 | | | | | |
| NXC-2 | 999.0-1000.0 | 2.125 | 2.785 | 2.828 | 2.839 | •• | •• | | |
| NXC-3 | 1107.0-1108.0 | 2.125 | 2.923 | 2.953 | 2.983 | | •• | • | • |
| NXC-4 | 1199.5-1200.5 | 2.125 | 2.932 | 2.958 | 2.962 | •• | •• | - | • |
| NXC-5 | 1299.0-1300.0 | 2.125 | 2.948 | 2.946 | 2.961 | | •• | | |
| NXC-6 | 1392.5-1393.5 | 2.125 | 2.947 | 2.946 | 2.961 | | •• | • | • |
| NXC-7 | 1491.5-1492 5 | 2.125 | 2.158 | :168 | 2.161 | 0.00 | 2.75 | 0 | 0 |
| NXC-8 | 2317.0-2318.0 | 2.125 | 2.207 | 2.219 | 2.219 | 0.00 | 2.05 | 0 | 0 |
| NXC-9 | 2402.0-2403.0 | 2.125 | 2.185 | 2.139 | 2.208 | 0.00 | 1.53 | 0 | 0 |
| NXC-23 | 2476.0-2477.4 | 2.125 | | 2.212 | 2.212 | •• | •• | - | - |
| NXC-25 | 2533.0.2534.0 | 2.125 | ••• | 2.204 | 2.202 | | •• | - | • |
| NXC-13* | 2698.5-2699.5 | 2.125 | 2.141 | 2.193 | 2.183 | Trace | 8.59 | 0 | 0 |

Note: All procedures except those for determining bulk kerosene specific gravity and apparent specific gravity were taken from American Petroleum Institute Recommended Practice for Core-Analysis Procedure. Kerosene bulk and apparent specific gravities were determined using the method described in CND-C 107-60, Handbook for Concrete and Comment.

Concrete and Comment.

**Core 1; was fractured, causing permeability and porosity to be unusually high.

PART V: CONCLUSIONS

- 104. It was not possible to determine from the test results if real differences existed between pure and impure salt, due to the limited number of possible comparisons. However, since the literature on salt domes indicates that impure salt is the rule and since the petrographic results obtained in this study verify this, the question probably is not of very great importance since the amount of pure salt is negligible.
- 105. From consideration of the petrographic data developed on the cores both before and after the physical tests and the physical test data, it is concluded that the salt cores from holes WP-1 and WP-4 can be considered homogeneous material, and that the variations in test results were those normally to be expected in testing subsamples of a homogeneous material. (The variations were probably due to the testing and not to the samples.) Aside from a few cores that failed or exhibited low complessive strengths (DC-23B, -5B, and -5C) probably due to hidden flaws, the other cores that failed probably behaved like all or most salt dome salt cores of similar size under equivalent conditions.

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- 2. Gilman, J. J., "Deformation and fracture of ionic crystals," in J. E. Burke, Ed., Progress in Ceramic Science, Volume 1 (Pergamon Press, New York, N. Y., 1961), Chap. 4.
- 3. Morgan, C. L., "Tatum Salt Dome, Lamar County, Mississippi." Bulletin, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, vol 25, No. 3 (3 March 1941), p 424.
- 4. Palache, C., Berman, H., and Frondel, C., The System of Mineralogy of James Dwight Dana and Edward Salisbury Dana, Volume II, 7th ed. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, N. Y., 1951.
- 5. Rogers, A. F., and Kerr, Paul F., Optical Mineralogy, 3rd ed. McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York, N. Y., 1959.
- 6. Taylor, Ralph E., Origin of the Cap Rock of Louisiana Salt Domes. Geological Bulletin No. 11, Department of Conservation, Louisiana Geological Survey, New Orleans, La., August 1938.
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Untested portion of salt core DC-4A from hole WP-1. Sawed down the middle and etched in water. Halite grains are outlined by thin white lines of recrystallized halite. Small clear or white grains are anhydrite or recrystallized halite. Natural size.

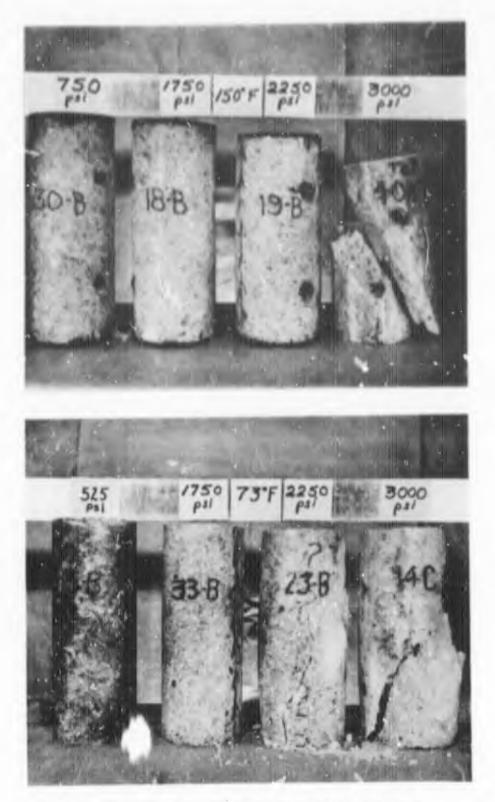
Photograph 1. Typical salt core from Tatum salt dome





Transmitted light view of core DC-15B from hole WP-1 after creep test. The two diagonal black streaks are the gray bands of anhydritic salt. The sketch shows the position of the bands as seen from above.

Photograph 2. Typical gray anhydritic bands in salt core from Tatum salt dome



Cores DC-14, -23, and -40 failed; others withstood 2000 hr without failure. Note progressive shortening and lateral bulging of cores with increasing pressure.

Photograph 3. Appearance of salt cores after creep testing

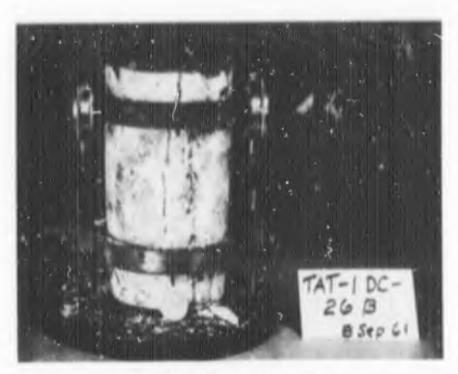


a. Immediately after removal of compressometer

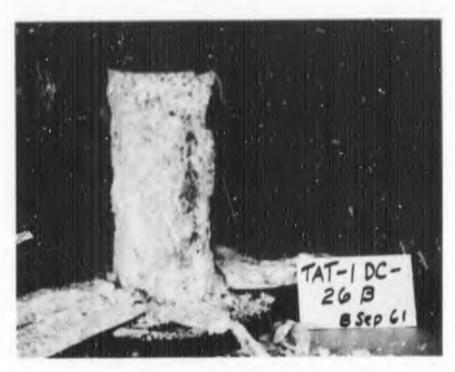


b. Separated by hand to show cones

Photograph 4. Salt core DC-13B after failure in uniaxial compression cyclic test



a. Core in compressometer



b. After removal of compressometer

Photograph 5. Salt core DC-26B after failure in uniaxial compression cyclic test



a. Core DC-20B, coupressometer removed



b. Core DC-56B, compressometer removed

Photograph 6. Salt cores DC-20B and -56B after failure in uniaxial compression cyclic test

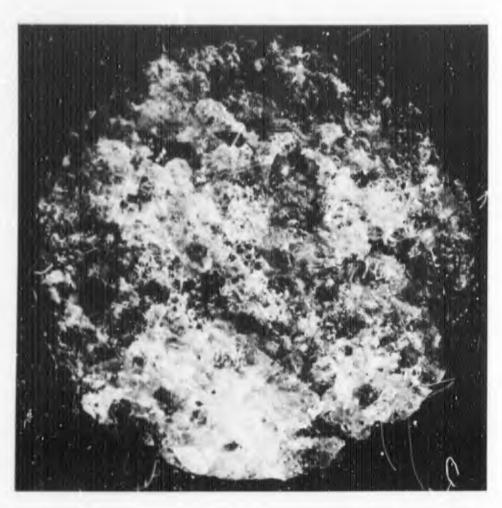


a. Core DC-26B, compressmeter resoved



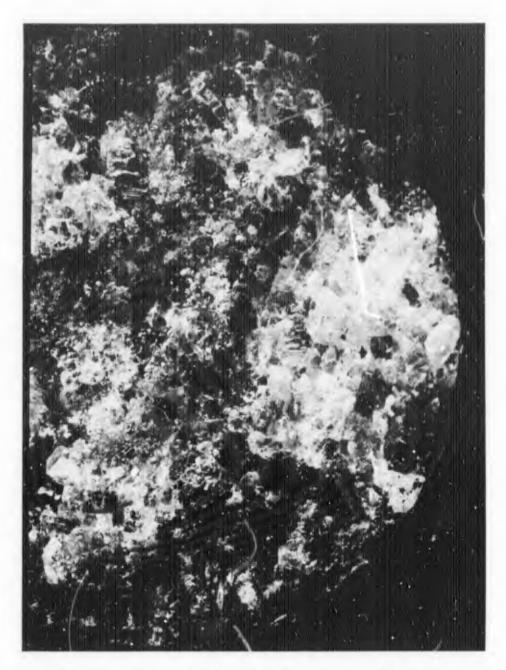
b. Core DC-35B, compressometer removed

Photograph 7. Salt cores DC-68 and -58 after failure in uniaxial compression systic seat



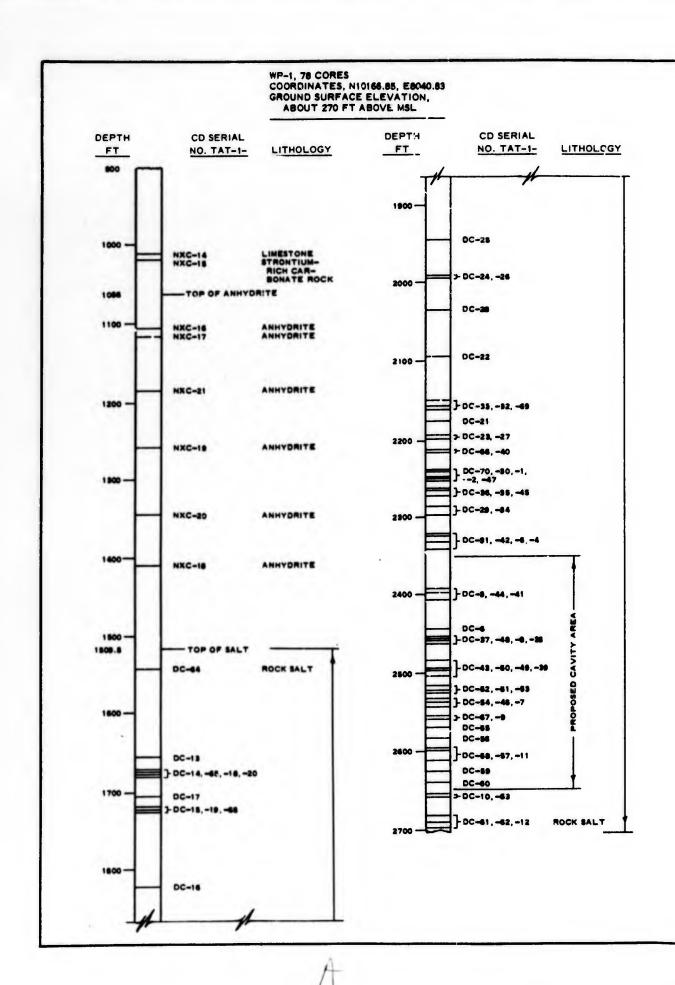
Core DC-10B. Fracture surface through core axis. Surface dips down about 20 to 30 degrees from right edge of core. The surface is very irregular since the break goes through and around grains. Broken ends of untested cores are also like this. Core is slightly reduced in size. Photograph 9 is a slightly magnified view of the left portion of the fracture surface.

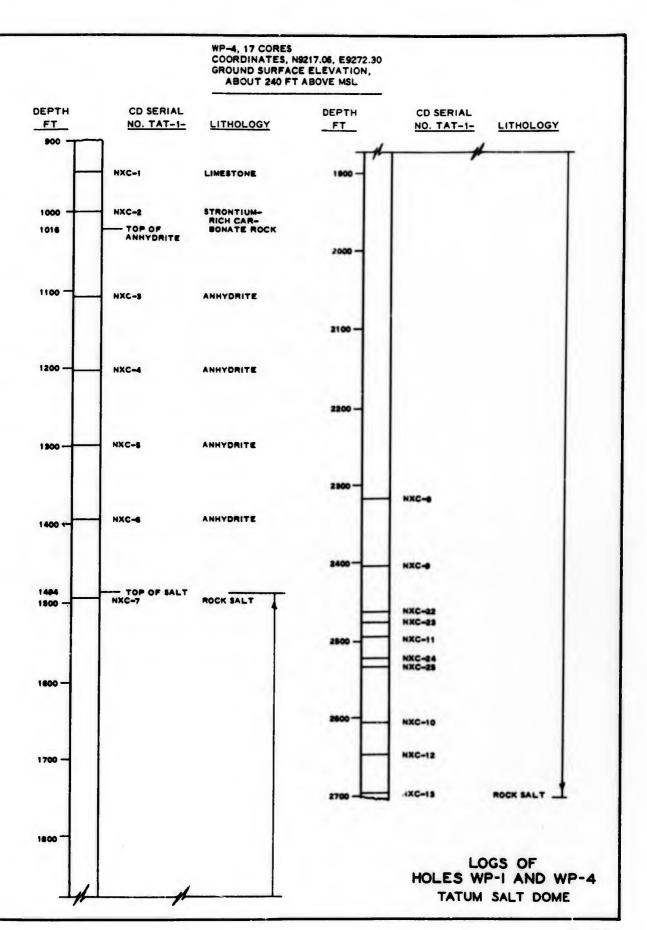
Photograph 8. Typical fracture surface developed in salt core by failure in tension



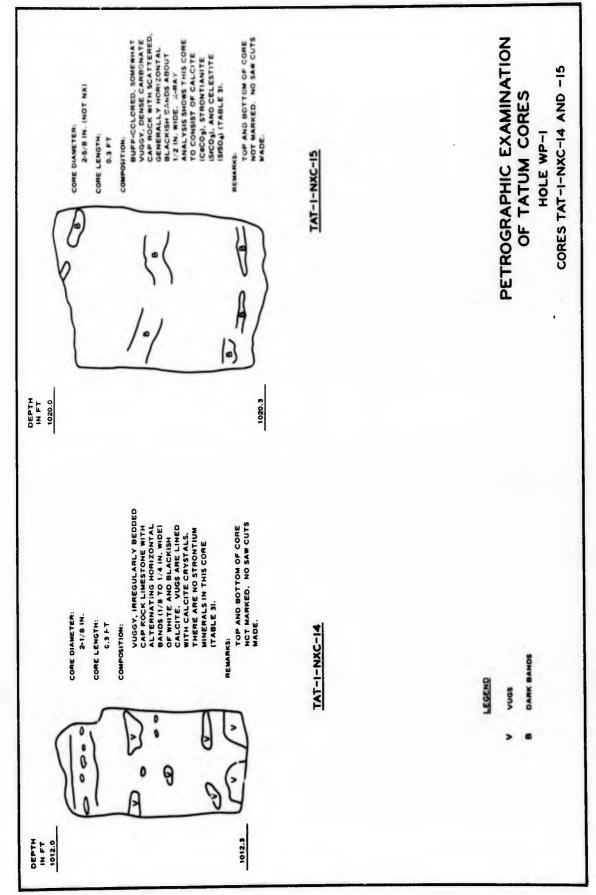
Core DC-10B. Enlarged view of left portion of fracture surface seen in photograph 8. Note the salt cube in the upper right and the striated grain surfaces in lower right and left center of picture. Aside from scattered specks of leadite (capping material), the dark areas of salt are due to lighting conditions. Magnification, \times 1.3.

Photograph 9. Portion of typical fracture surface developed in salt core by failure in tension





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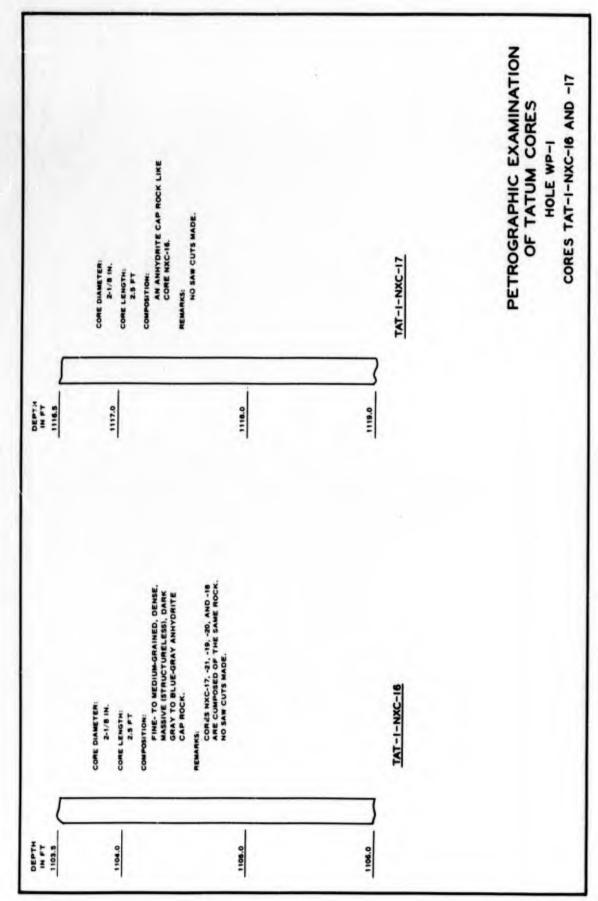
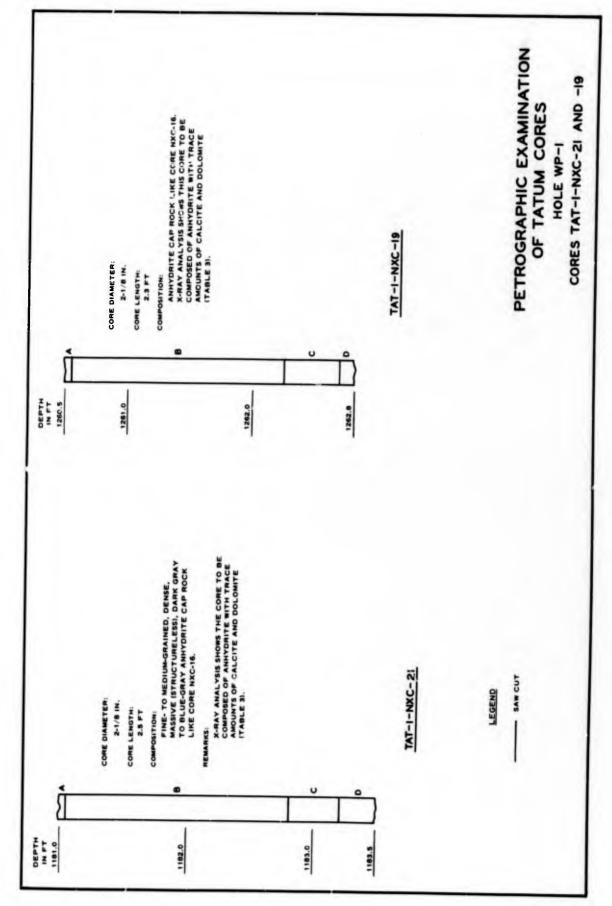


PLATE 3



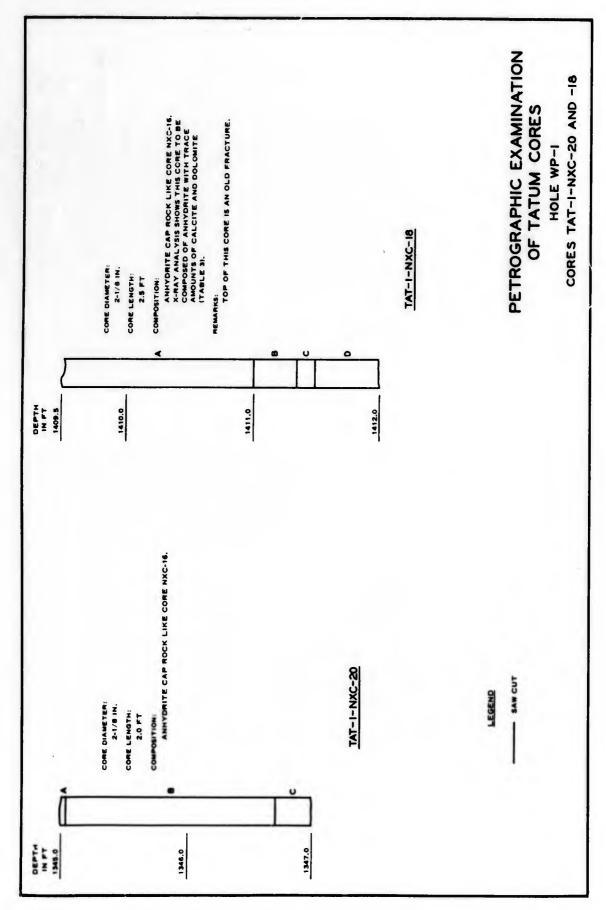
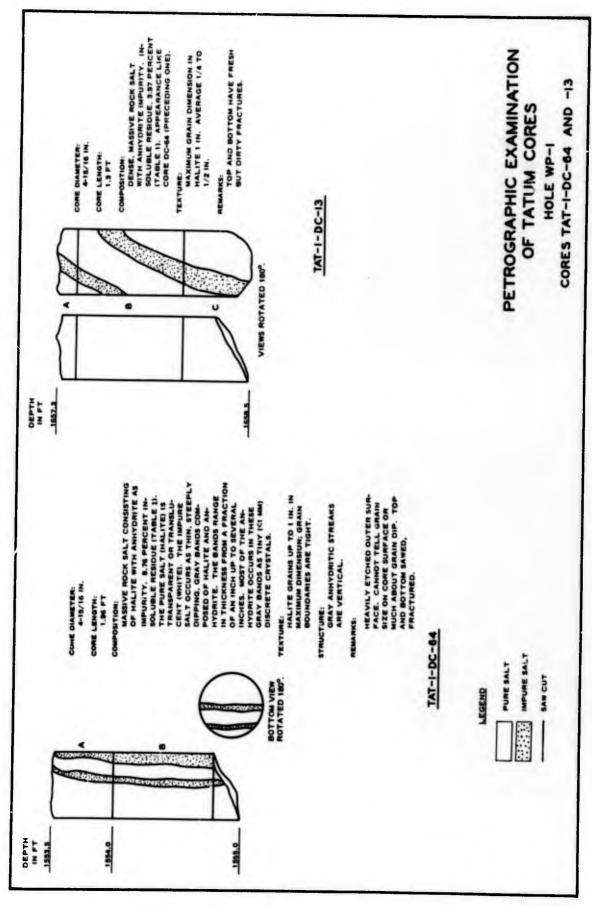


PLATE 5



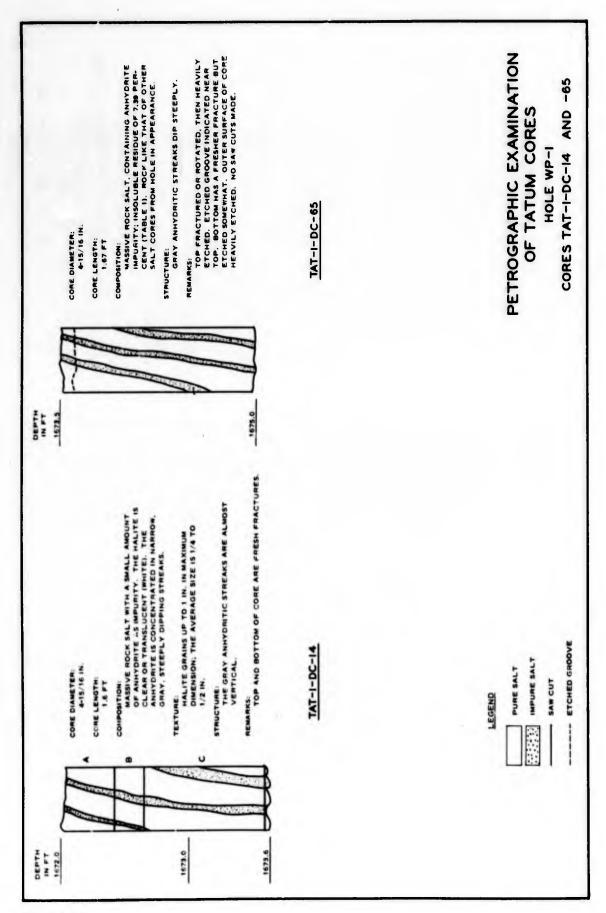
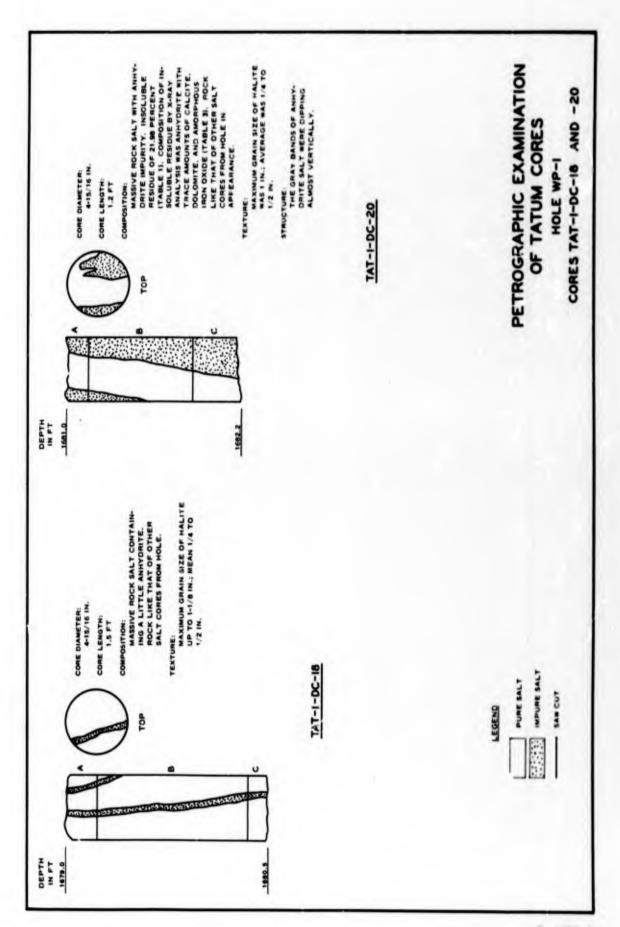
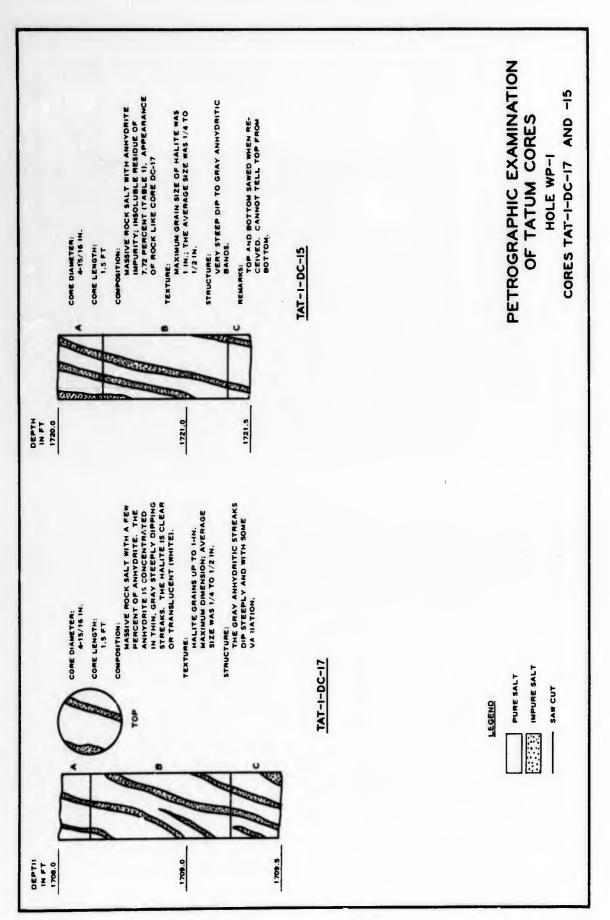
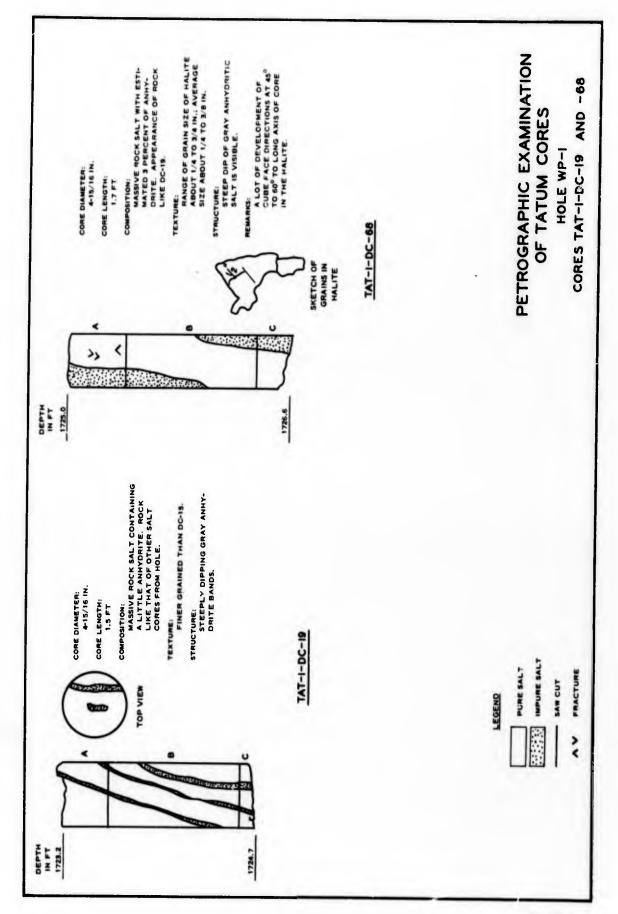
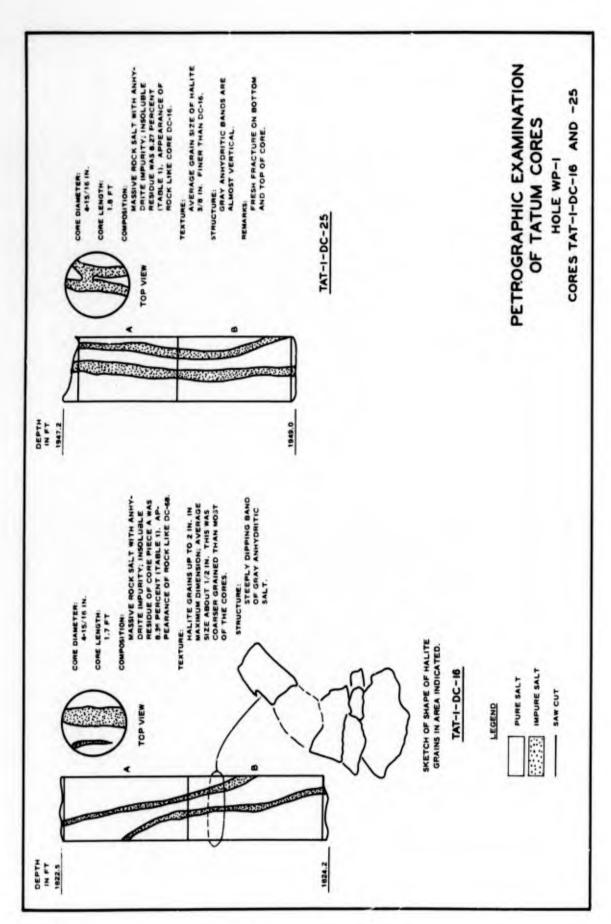


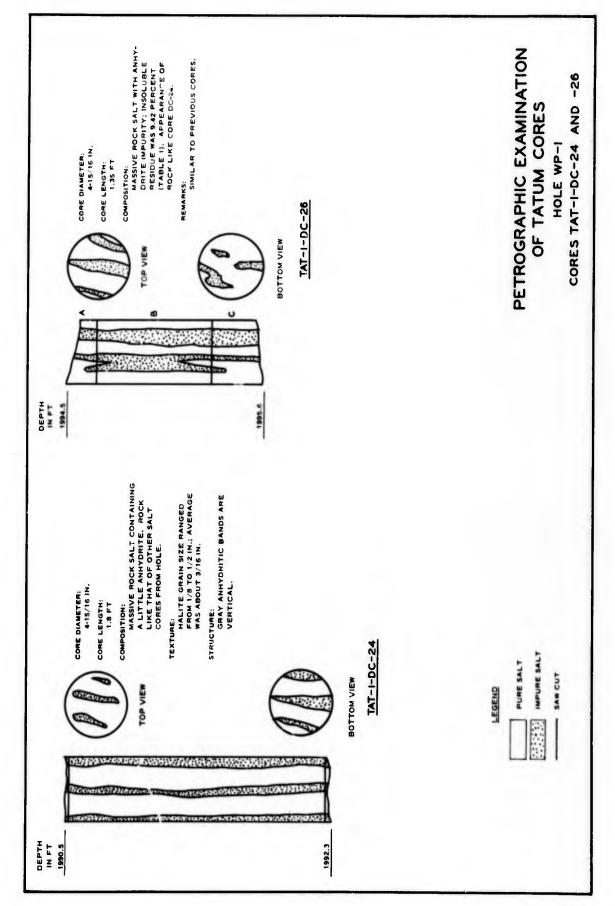
PLATE 7











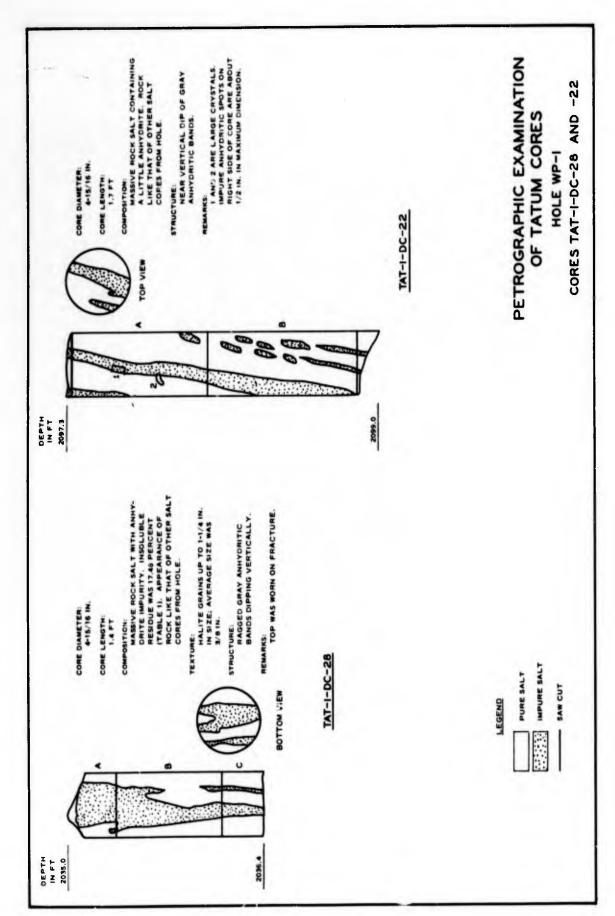


PLATE 13

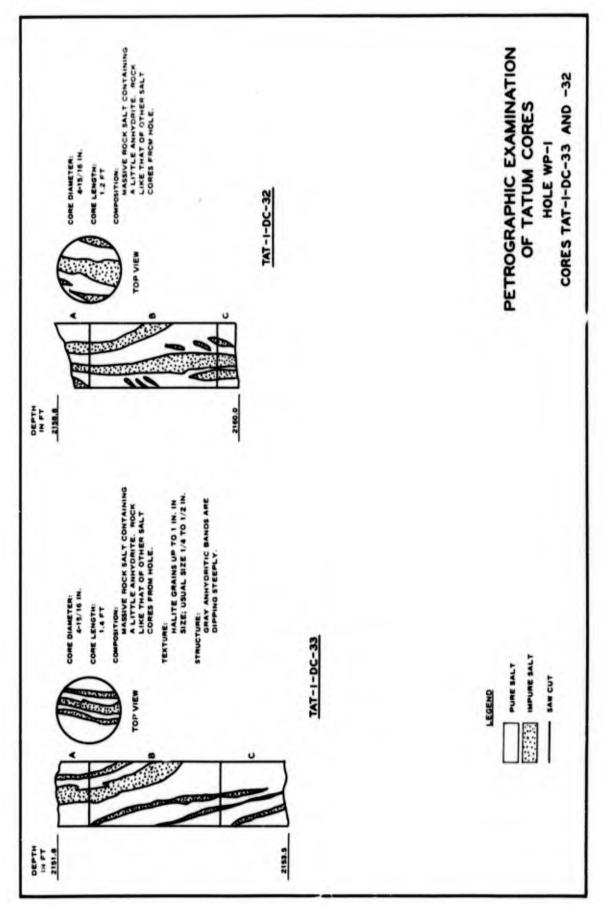


PLATE 14

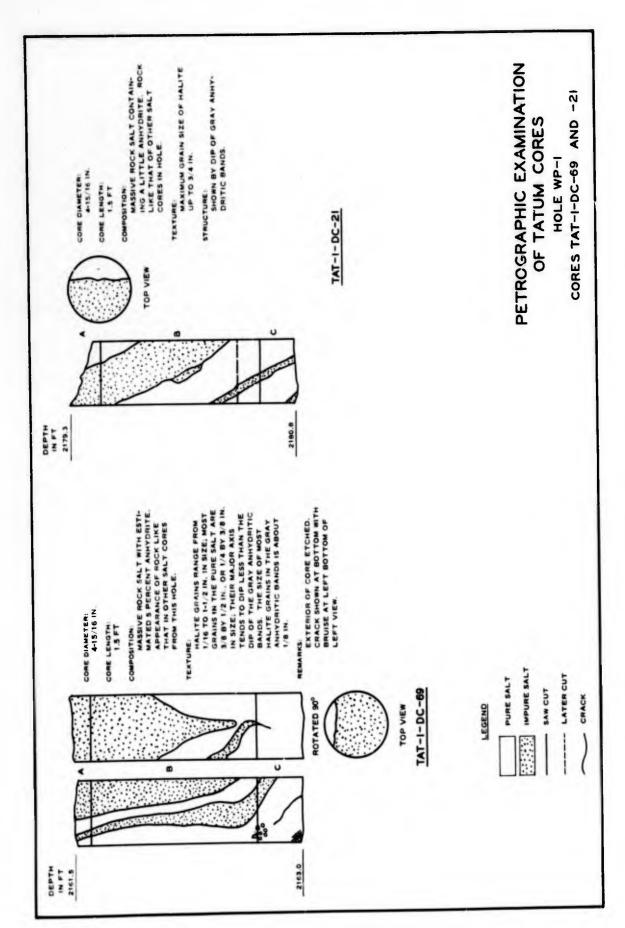
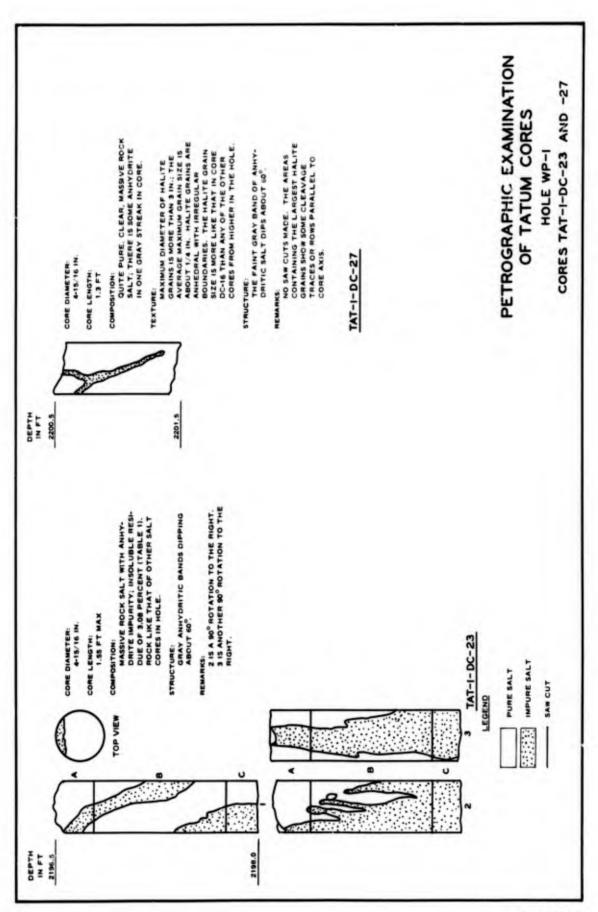
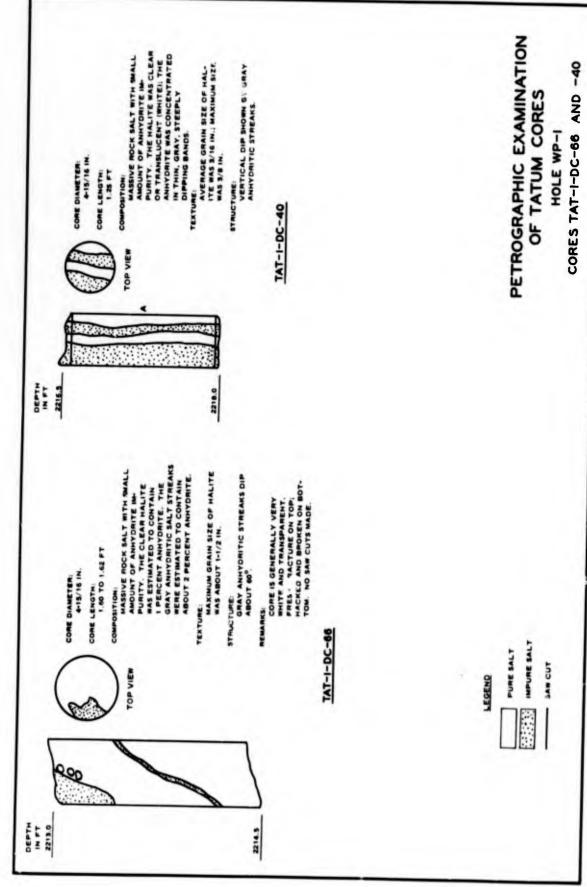
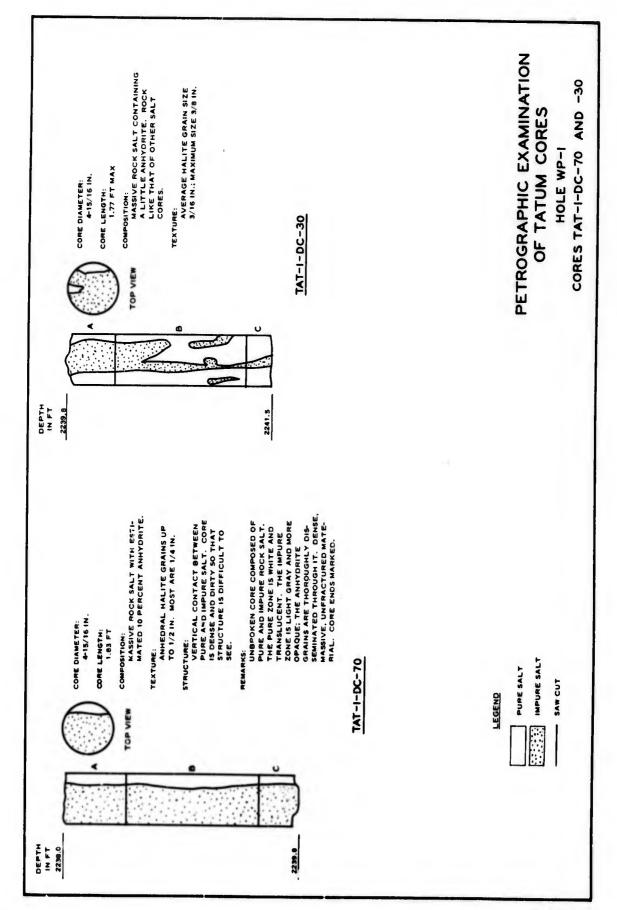
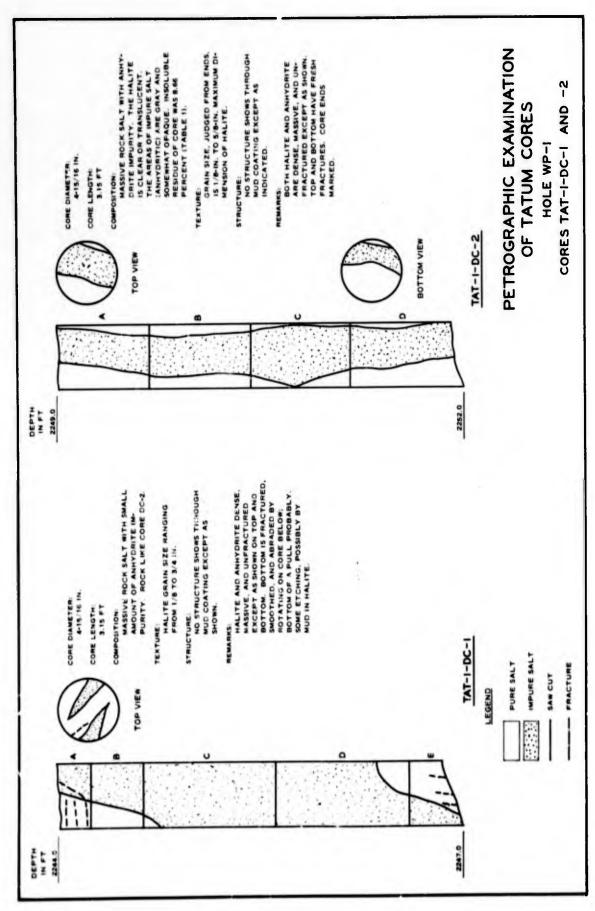


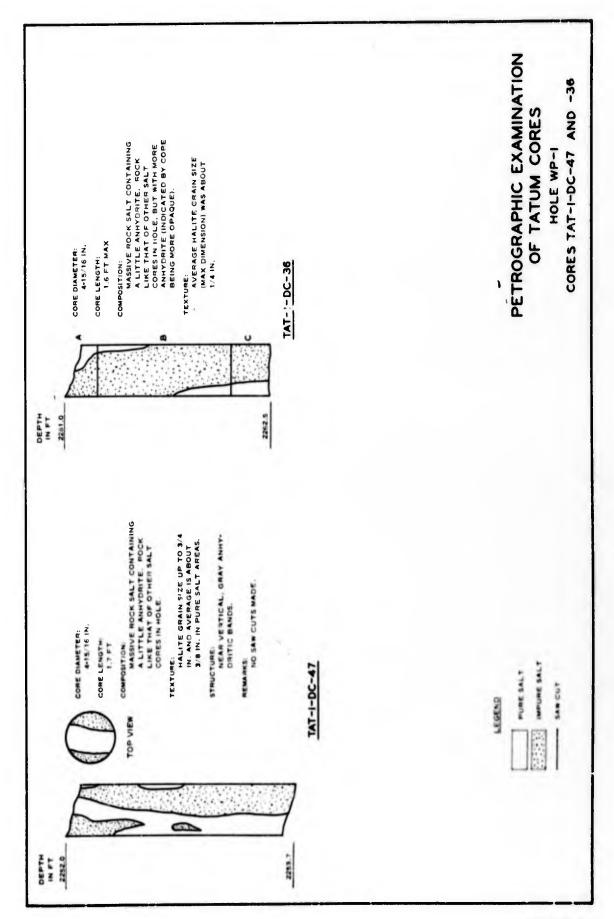
PLATE 15











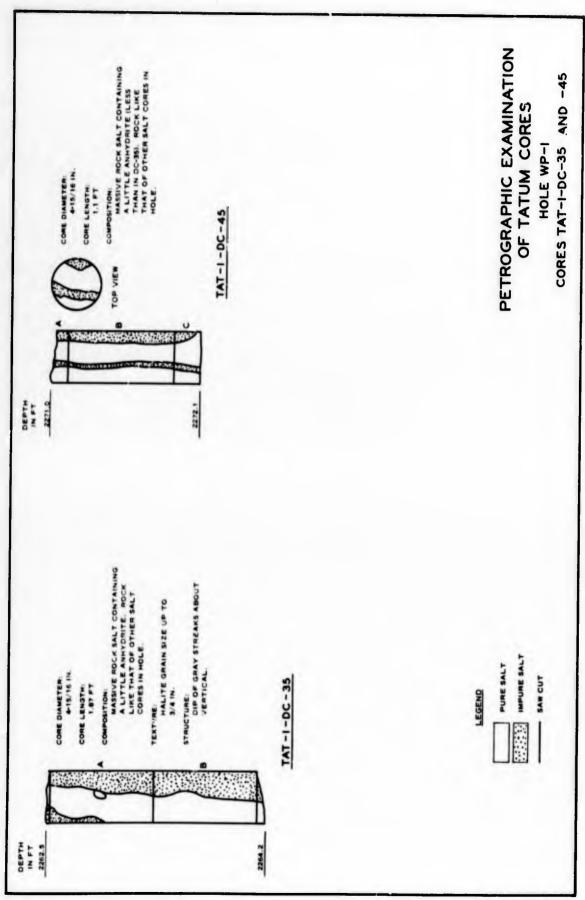
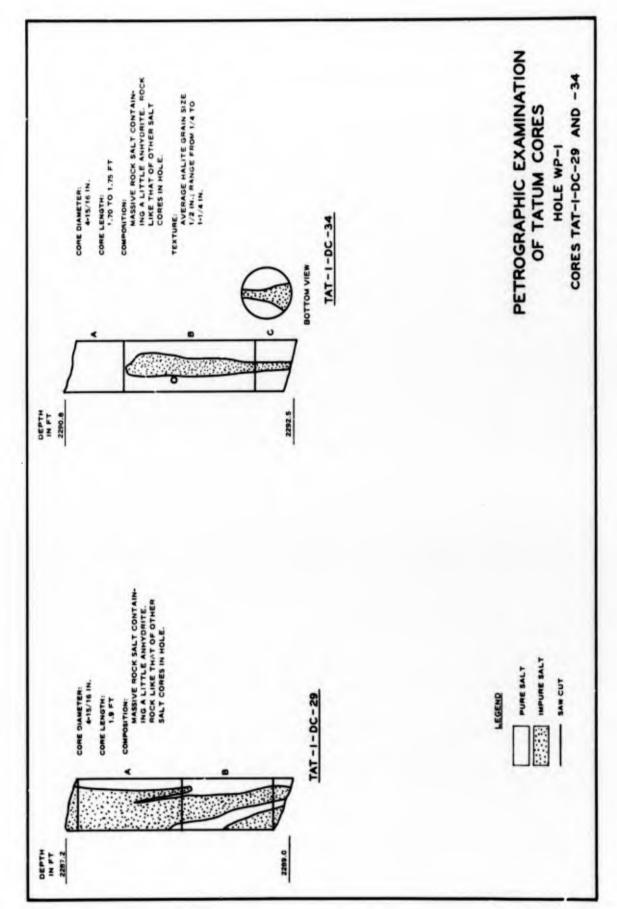
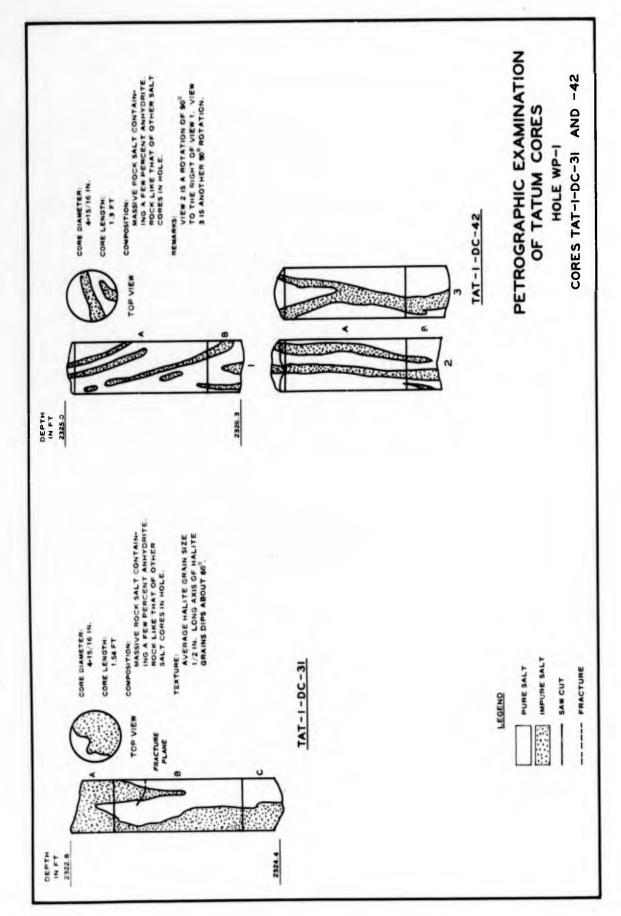
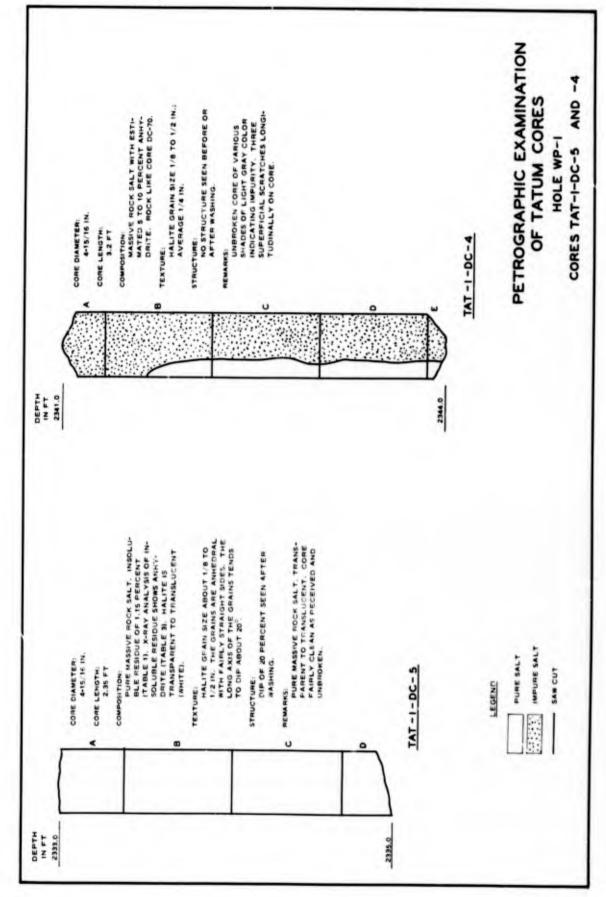


PLATE 21







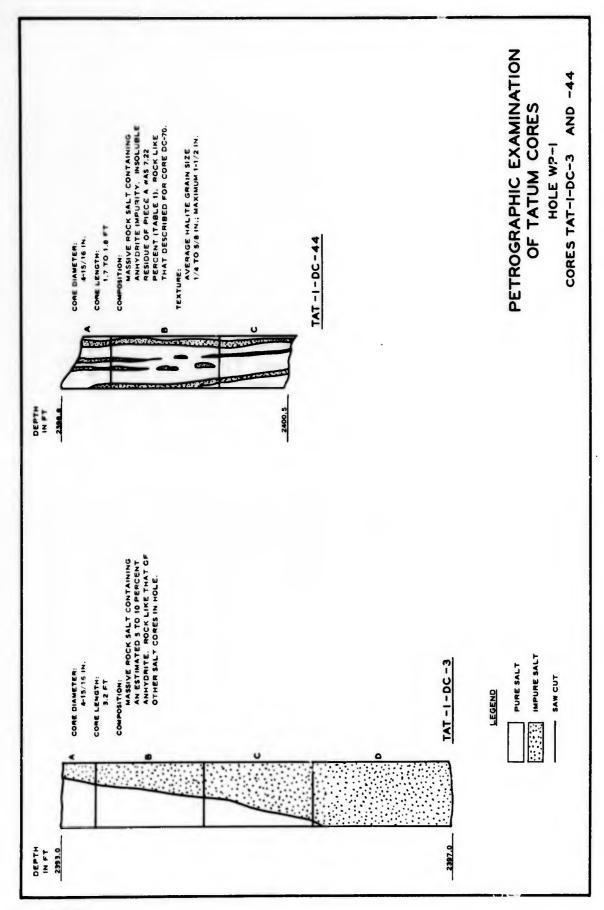
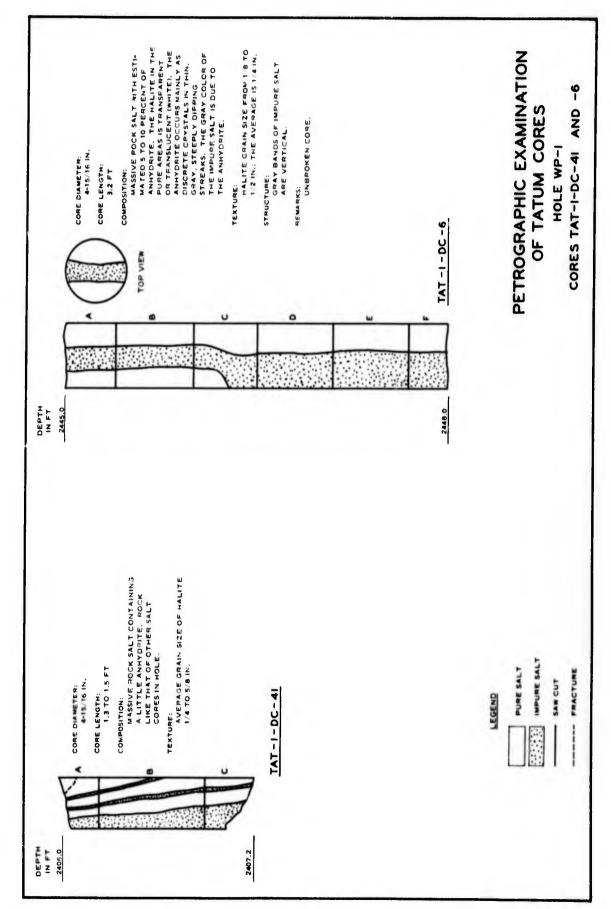


PLATE 25



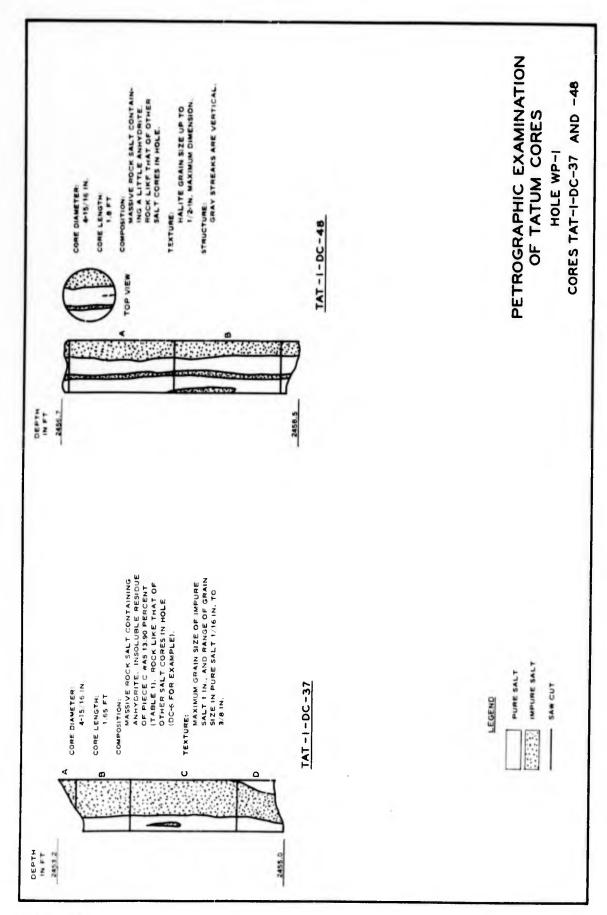
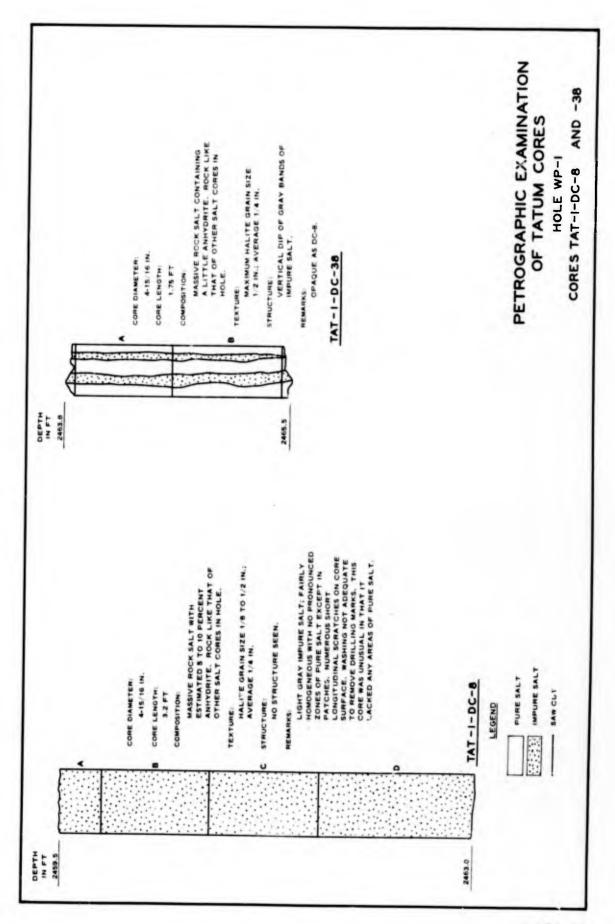
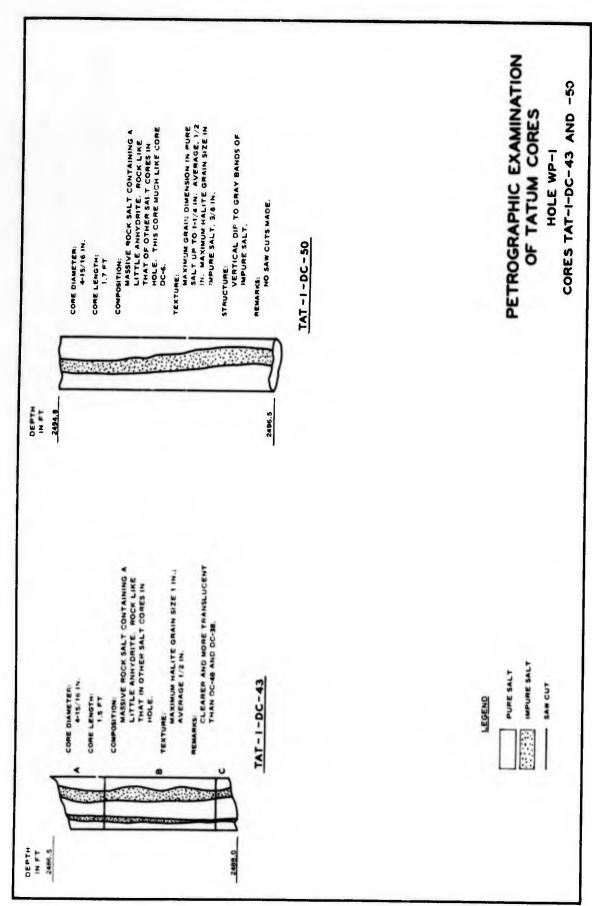
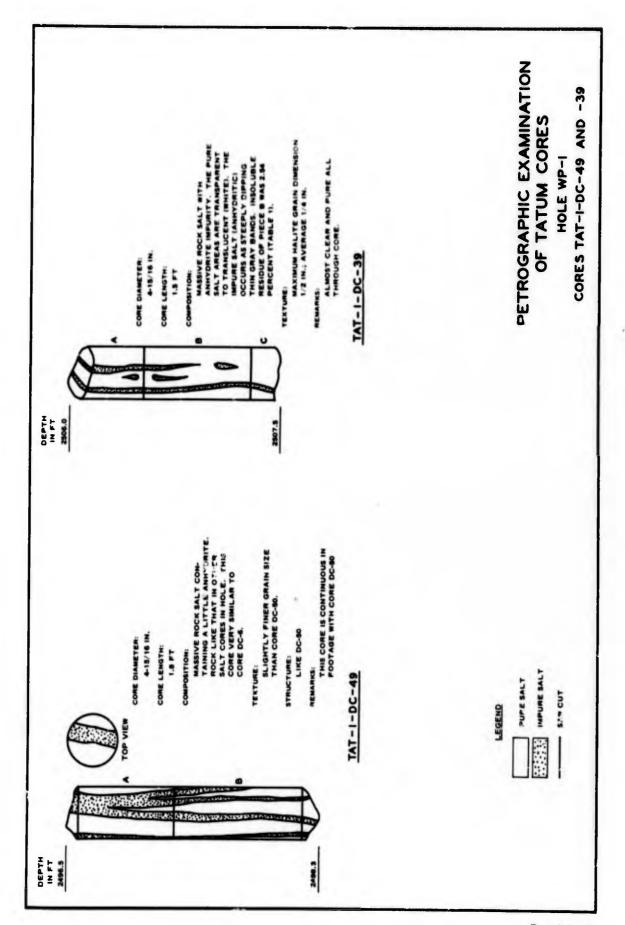


PLATE 27



1





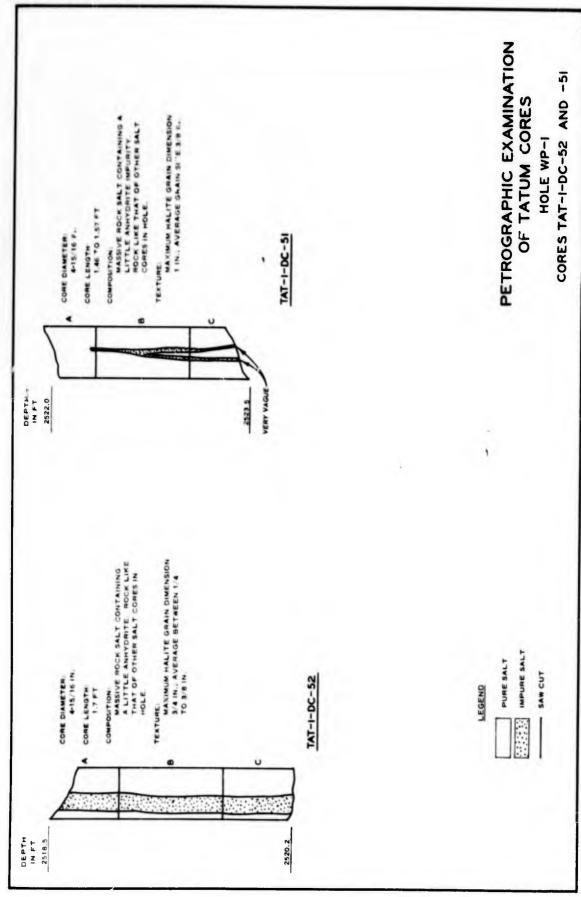
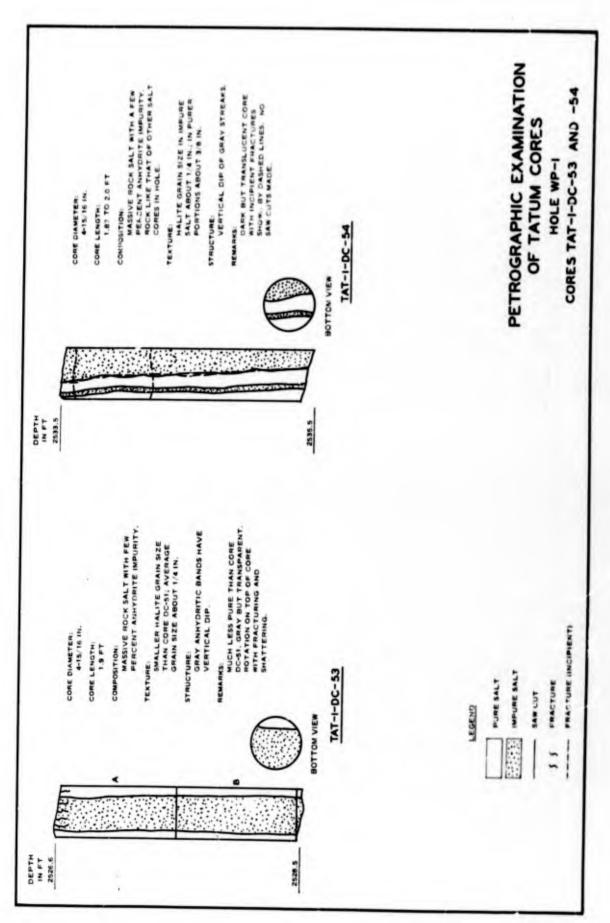
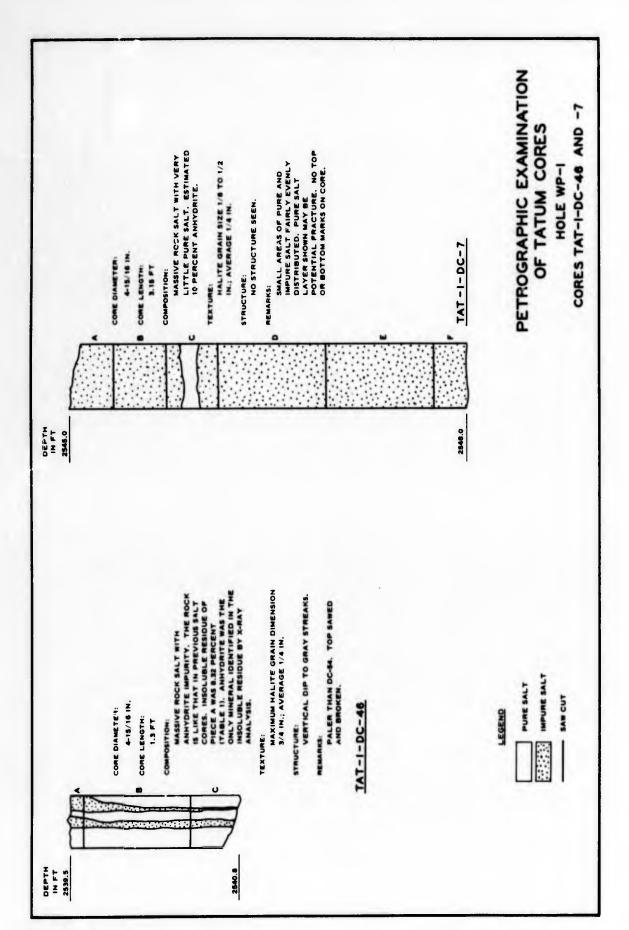
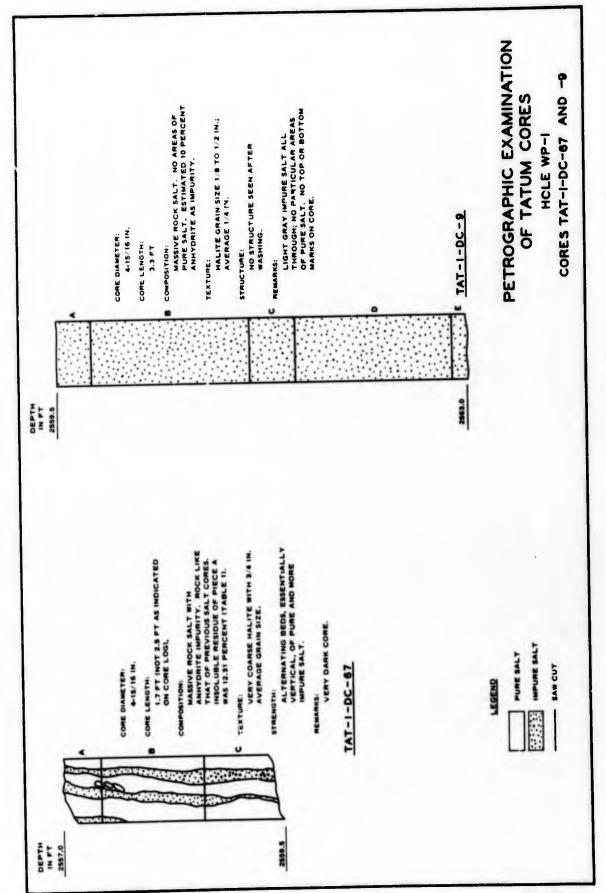
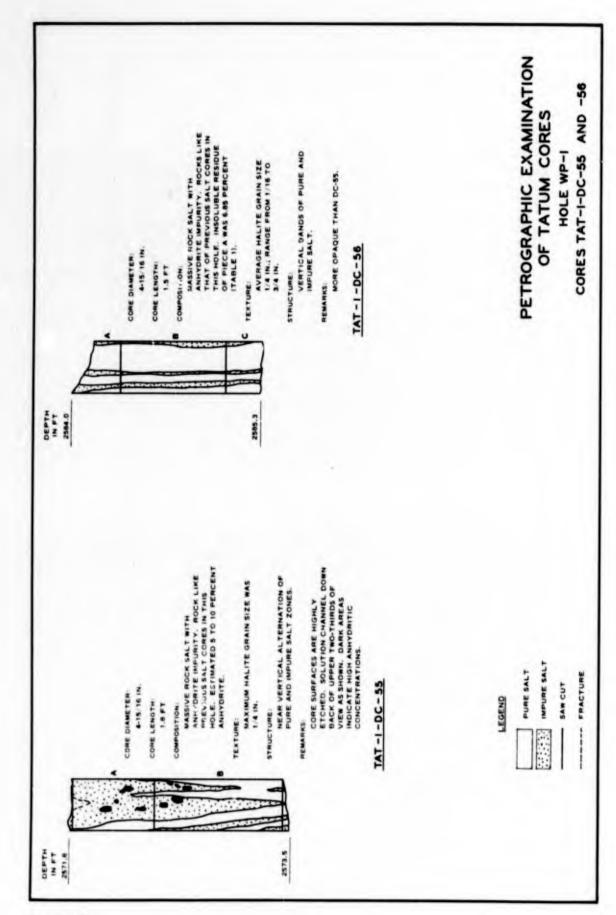


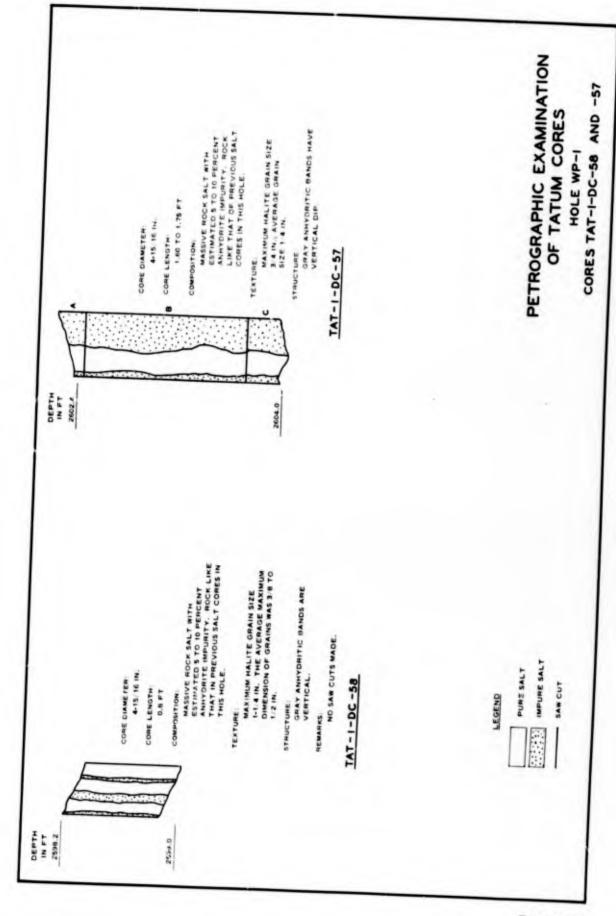
PLATE 31











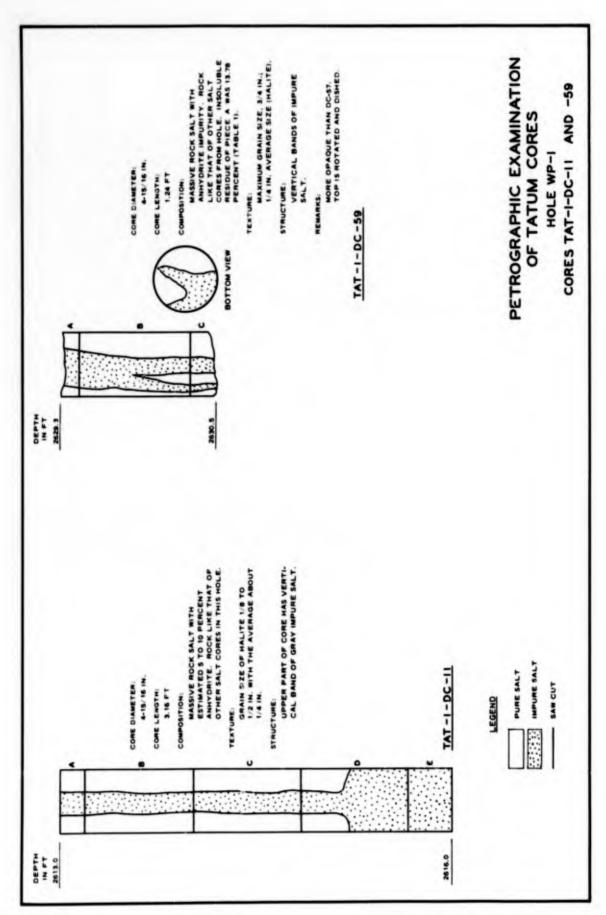


PLATE 37

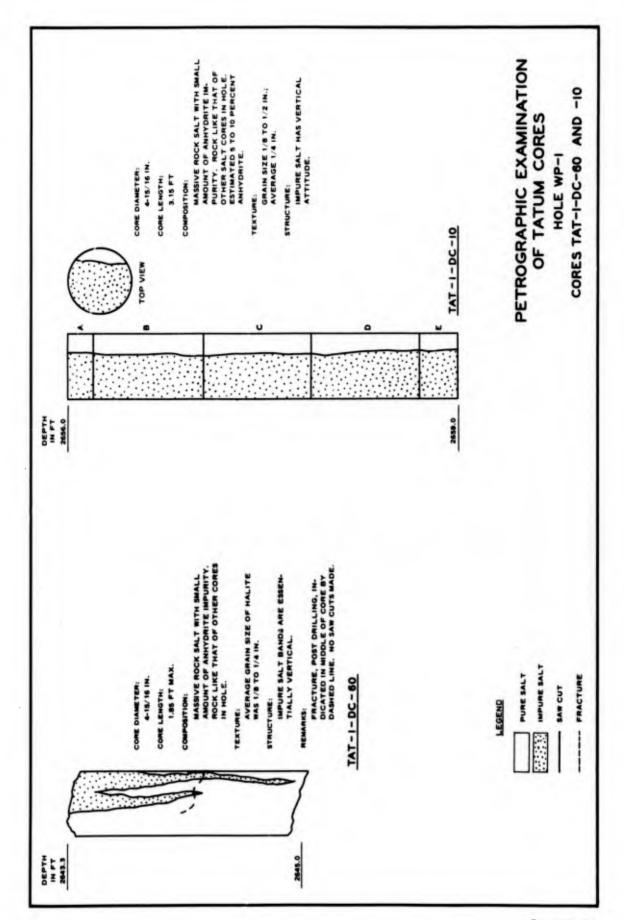
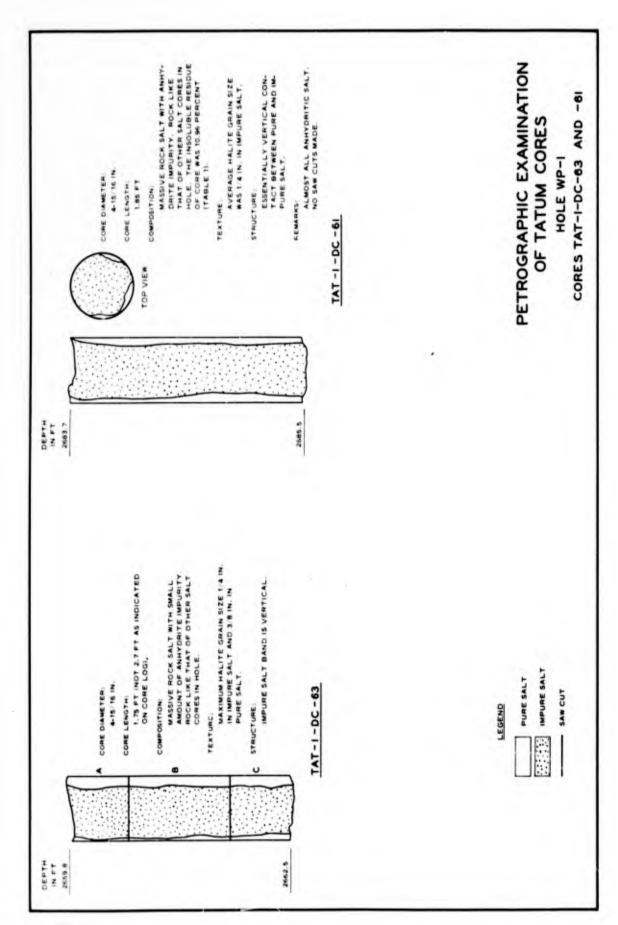
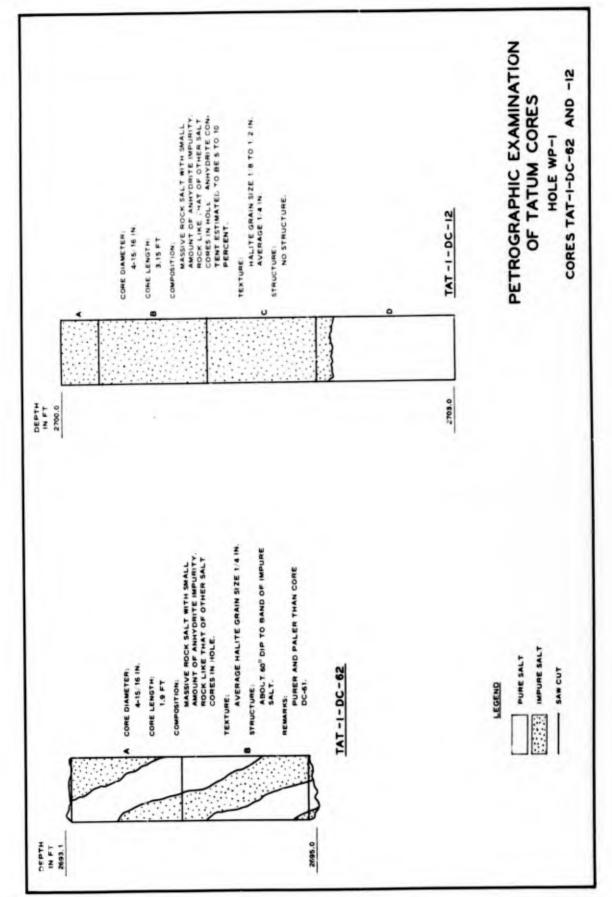


PLATE 38





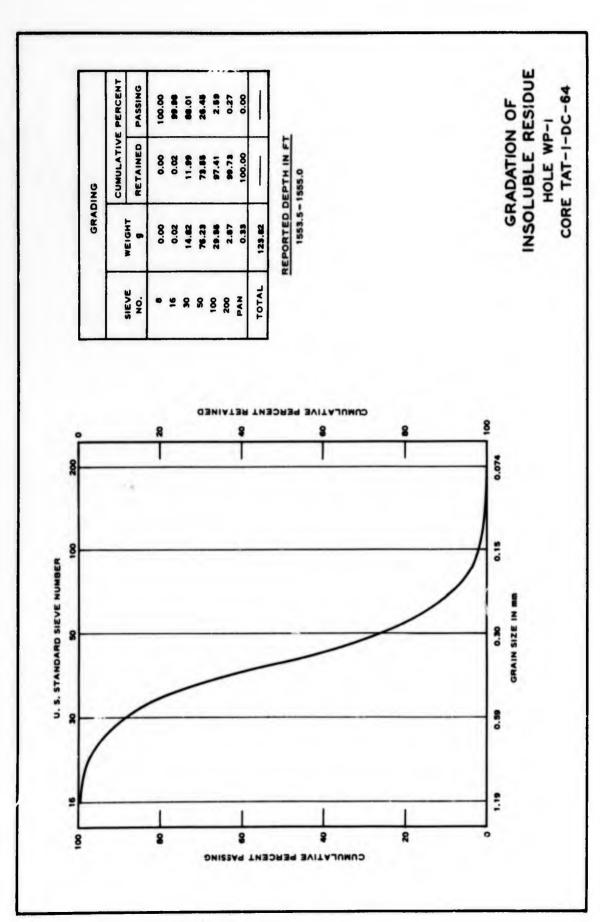


PLATE 41

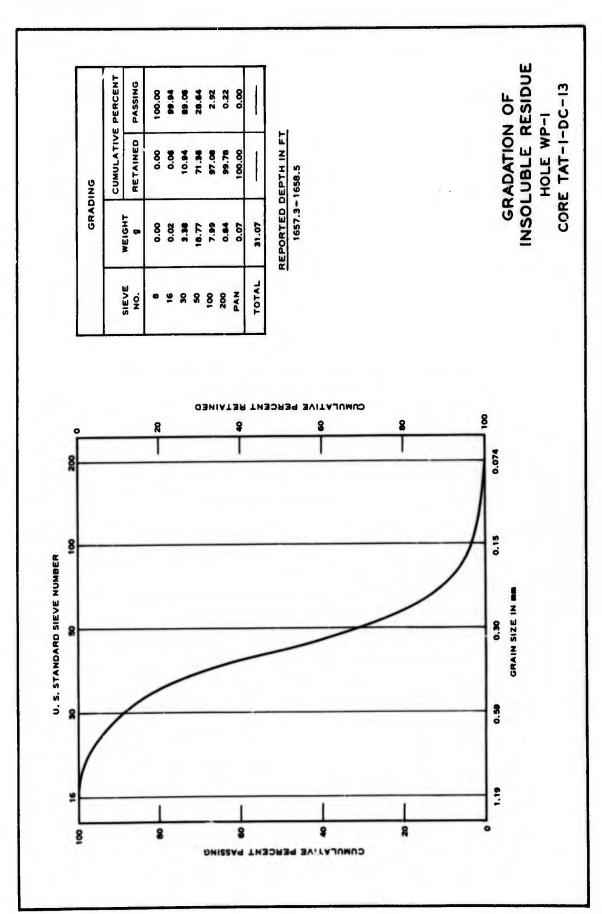


PLATE 42

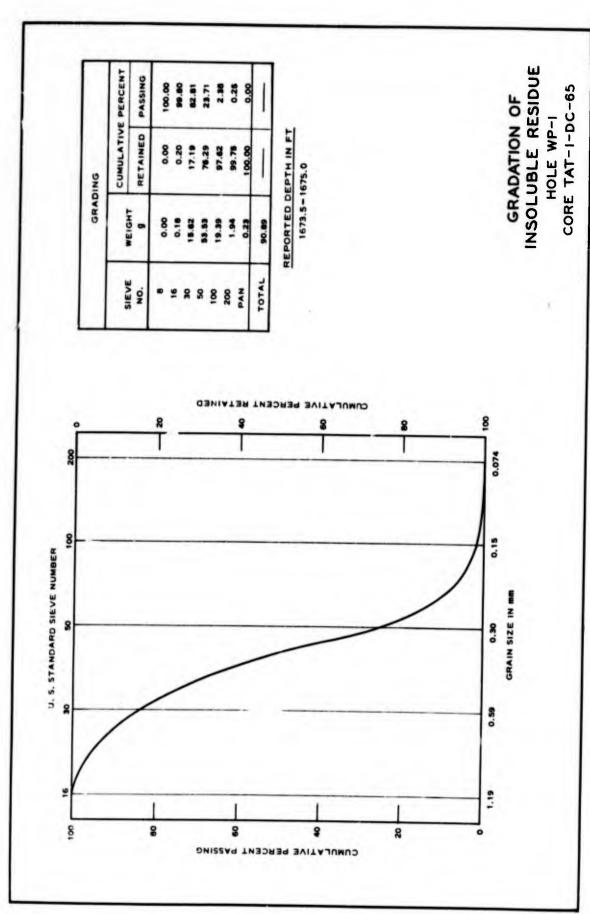


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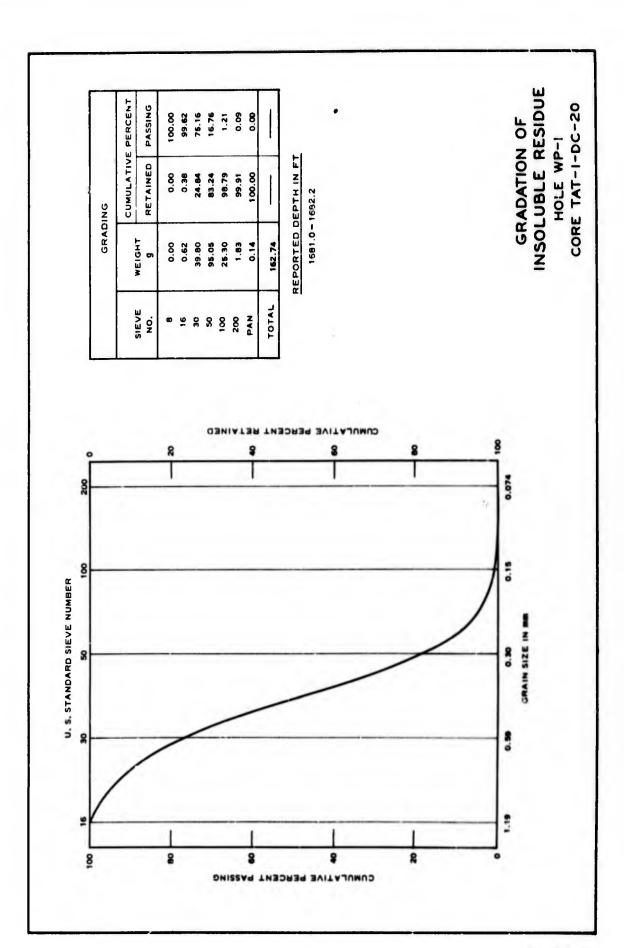


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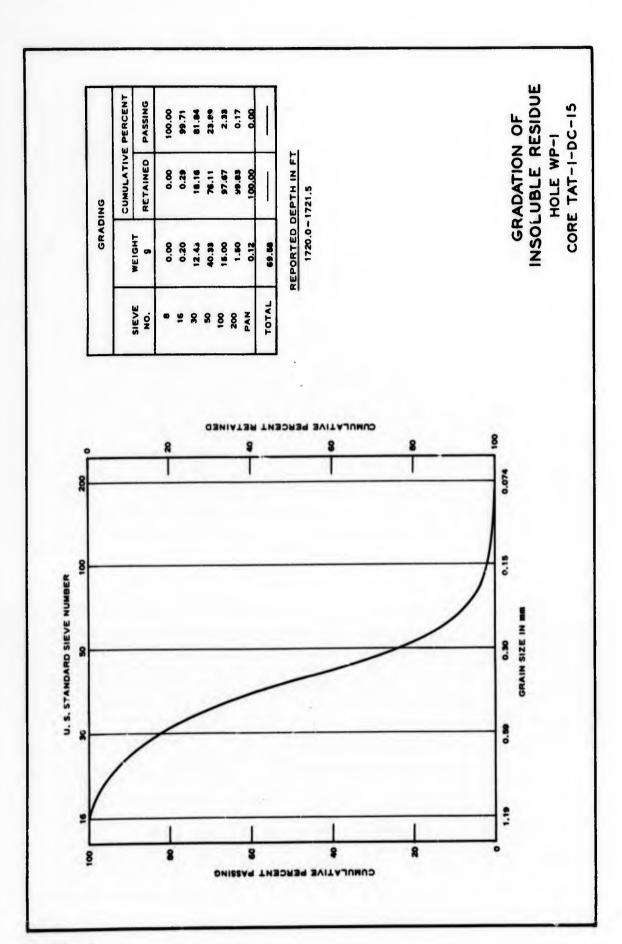


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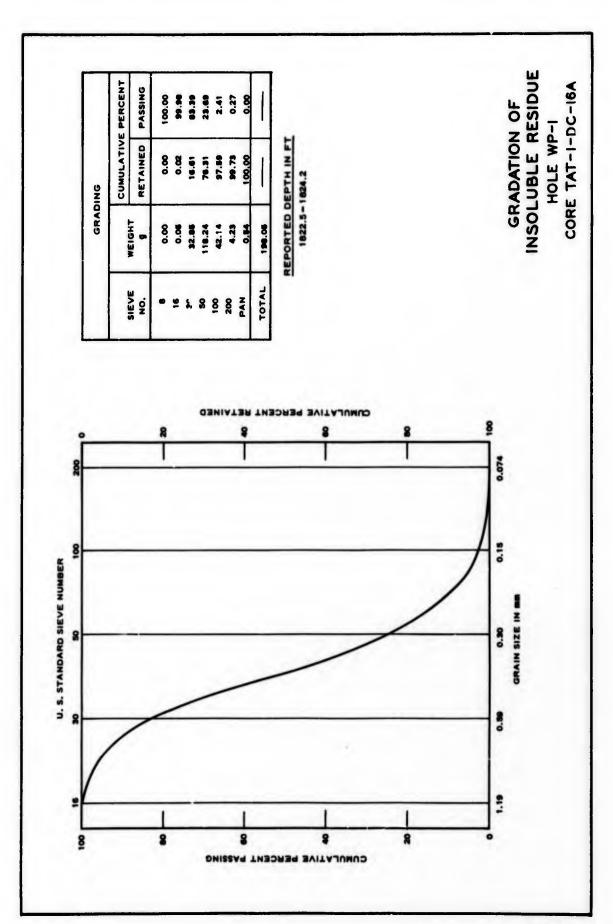


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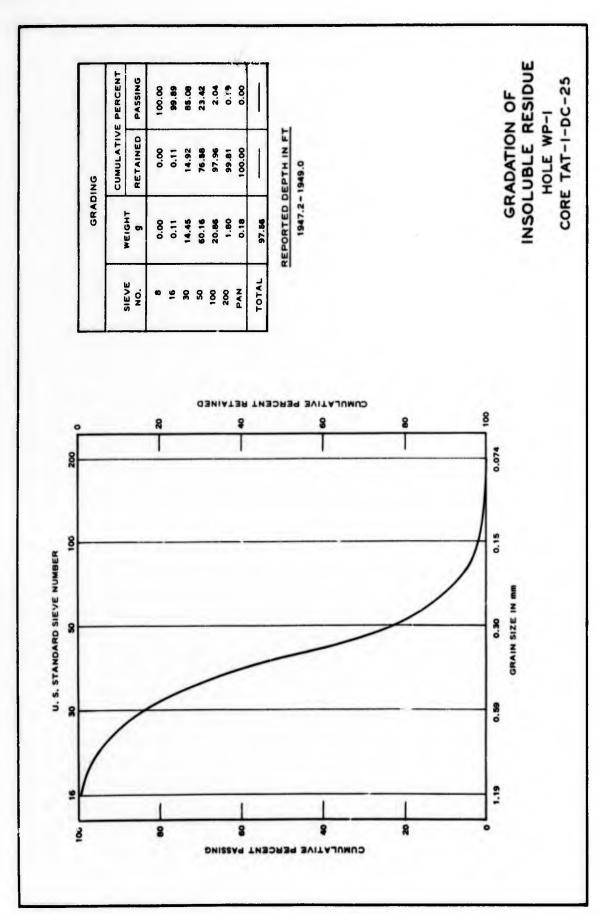


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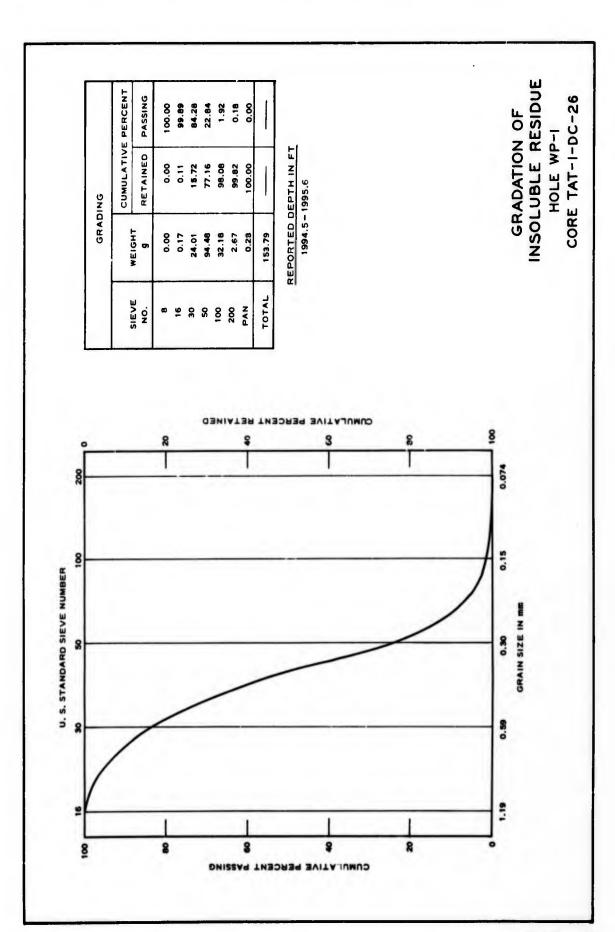


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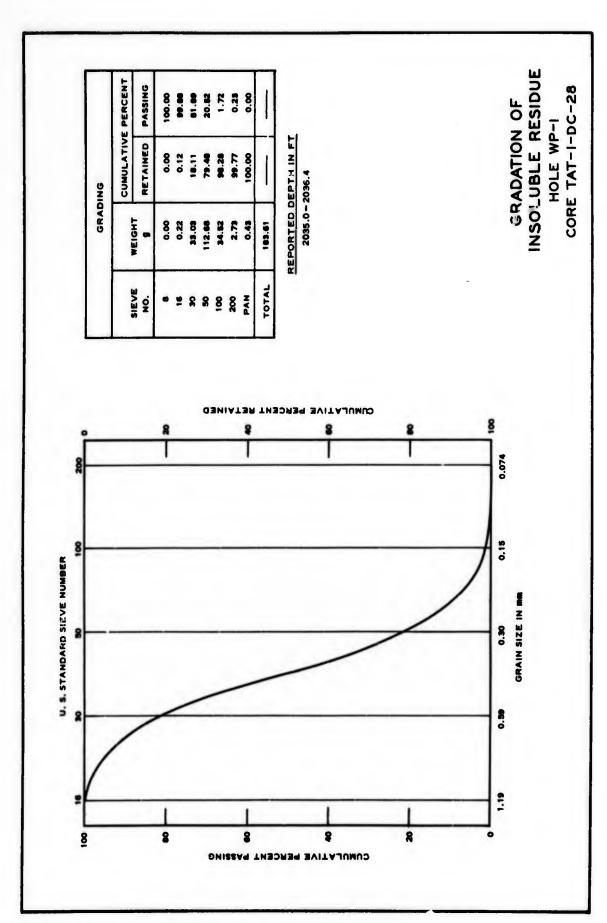
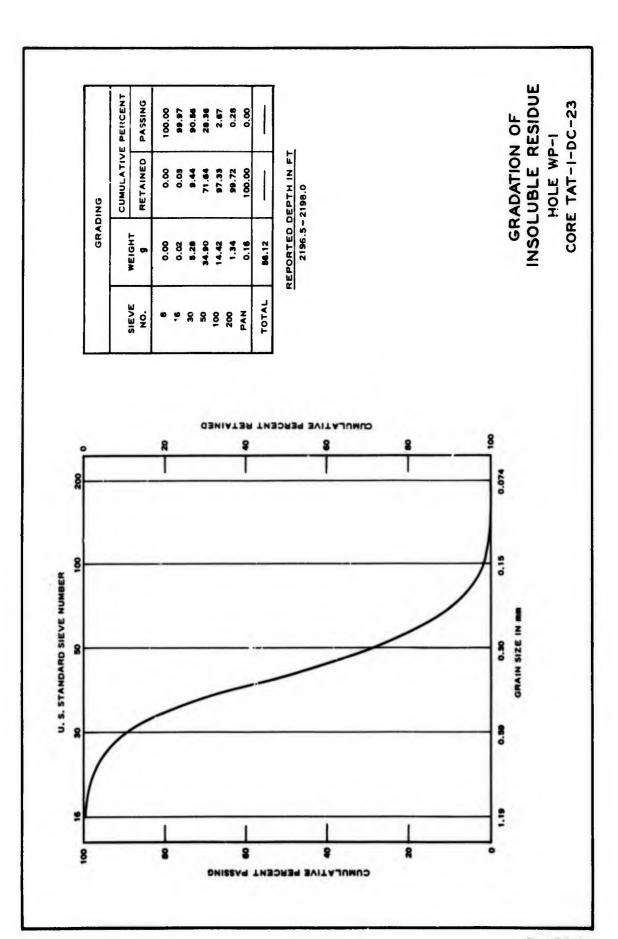


PLATE 49



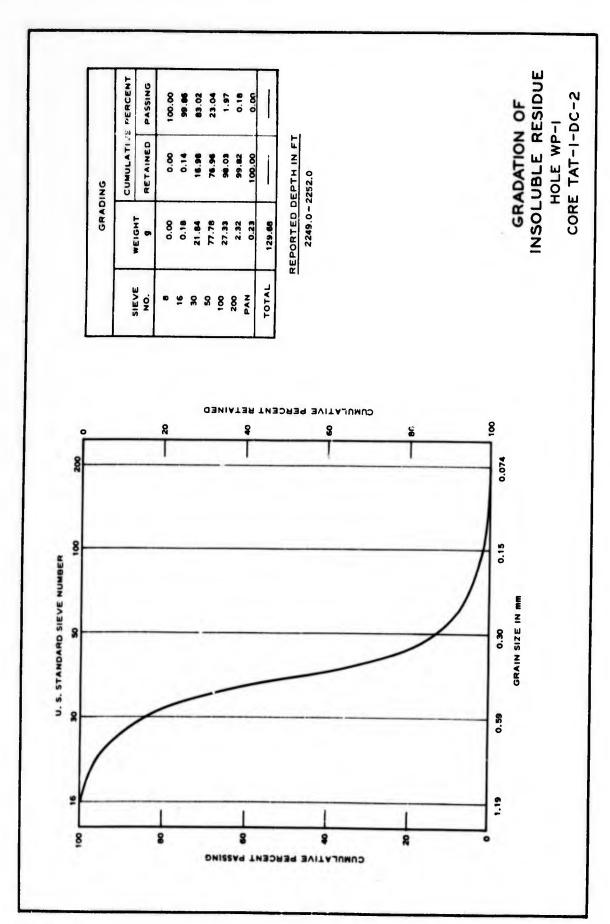


PLATE 51

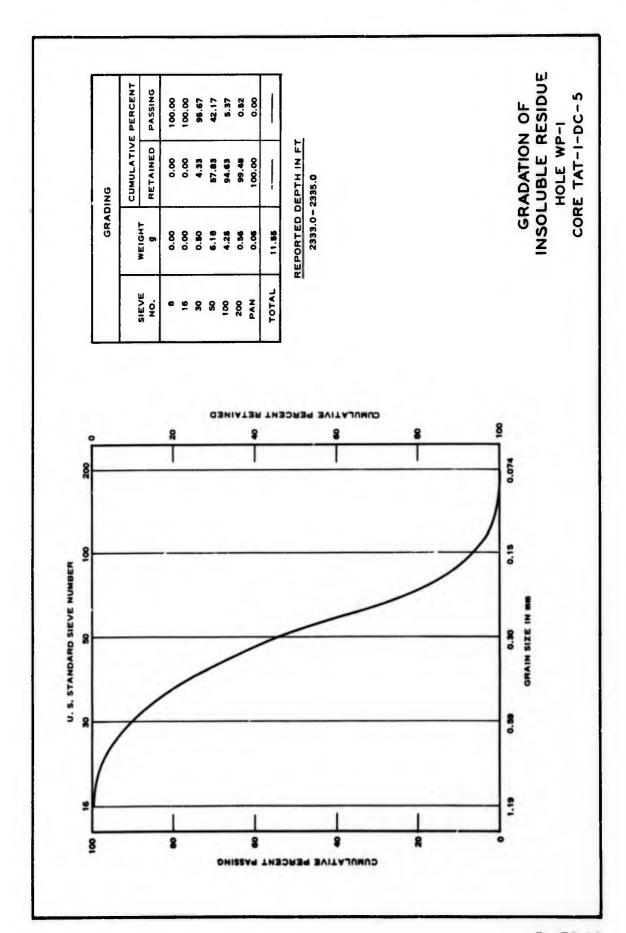


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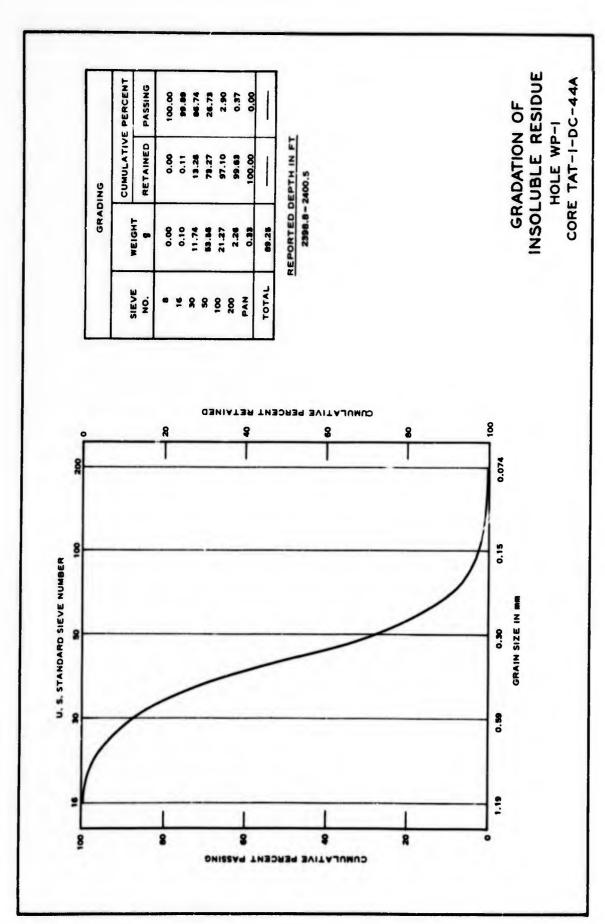


PLATE 53

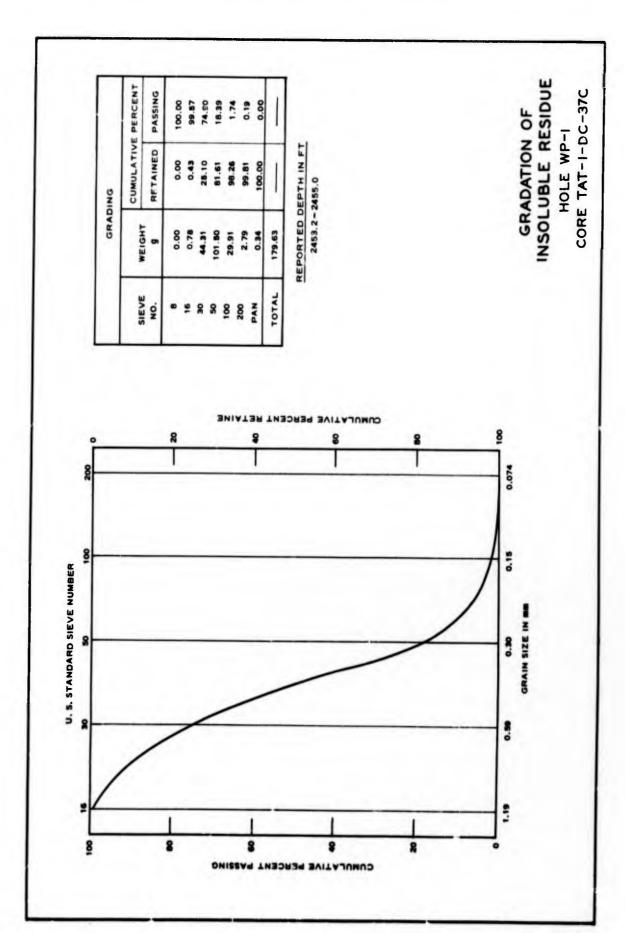


PLATE 54

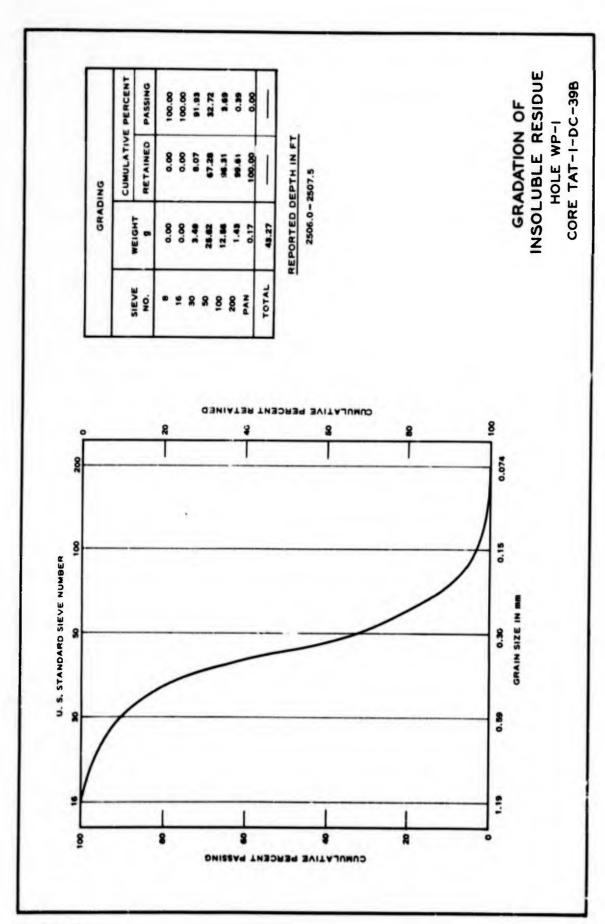


PLATE 55

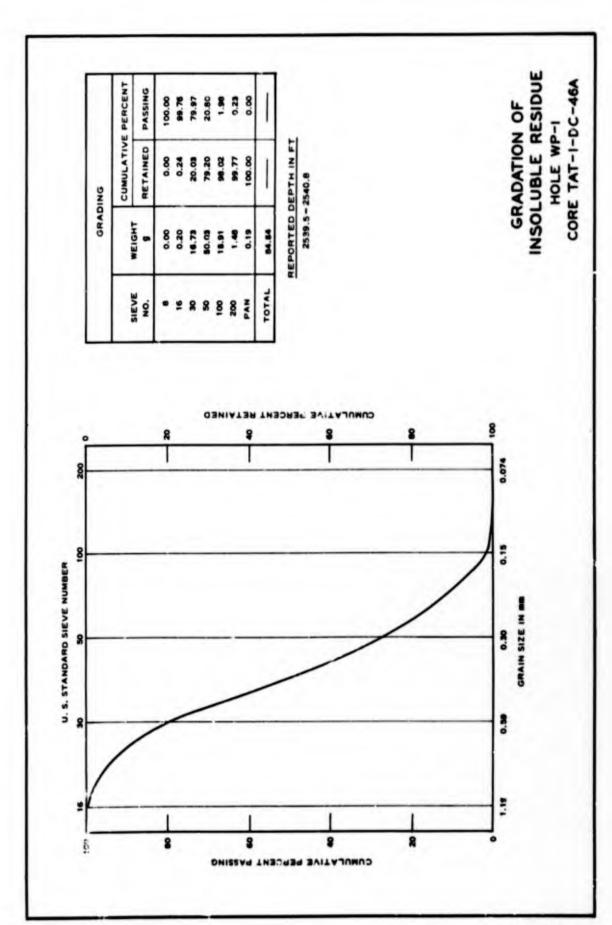
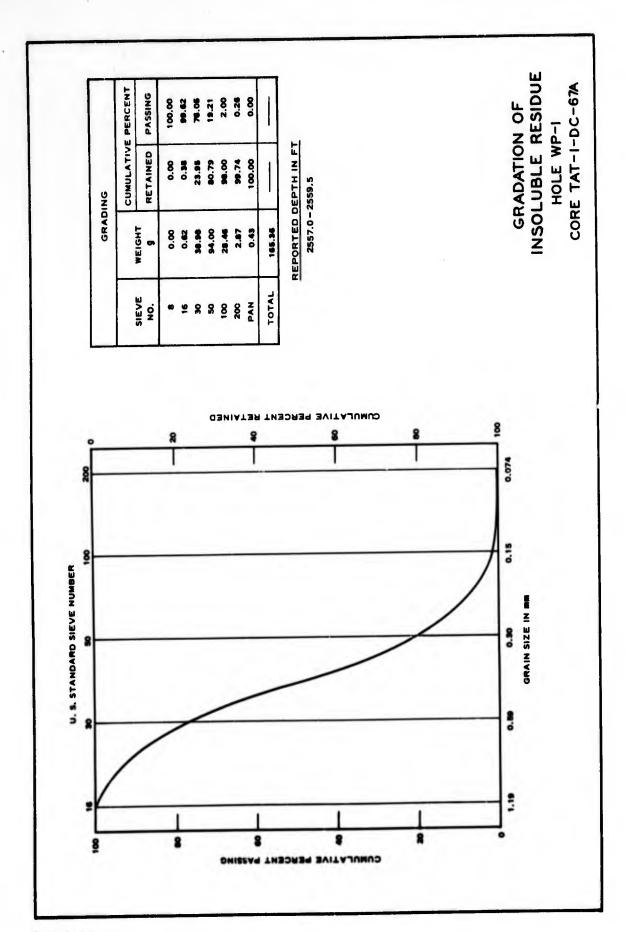


PLATE 56



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PLATE 57

GRADATION OF INSOLUBLE RESIDUE CORE TAT-I-DC-56A CUMULATIVE PERCENT PASSING 79.05 HOLE WP-I REPORTED DEPTH IN FT RETAINED 0.00 0.30 20.95 20.95 97.96 00.00 2584.0 - 2585.3 GRADING WEIGHT 9 0.00 0.36 26.61 75.00 24.27 2.31 0.29 TOTAL SIEVE NO. CUMULATIVE PERCENT RETAINED 8 8 9.00 0.15 U. S. STANDARD SIEVE NUMBER GRAIN SIZE IN MM 0.30 8 CUMULATIVE PERCENT PASSING

PLATE 58

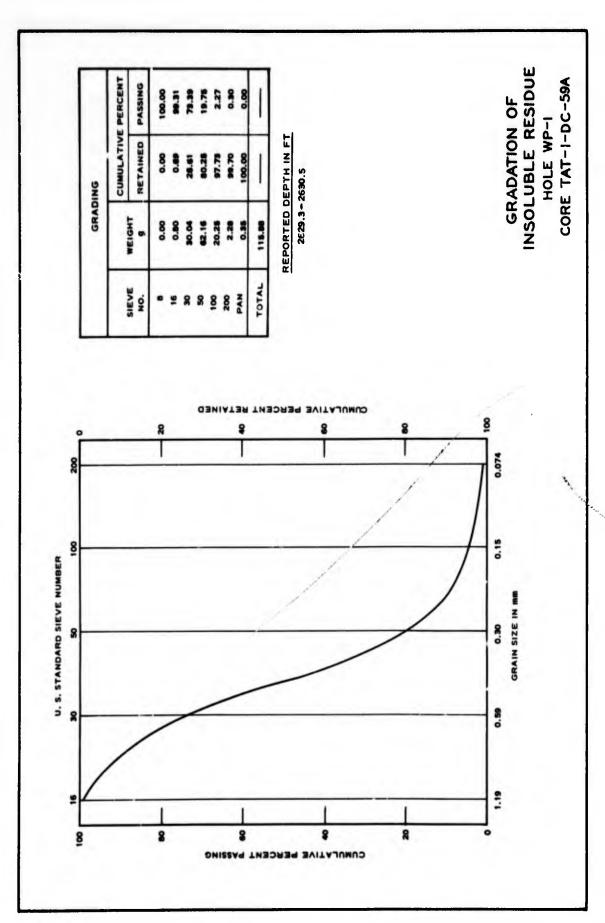


PLATE 59

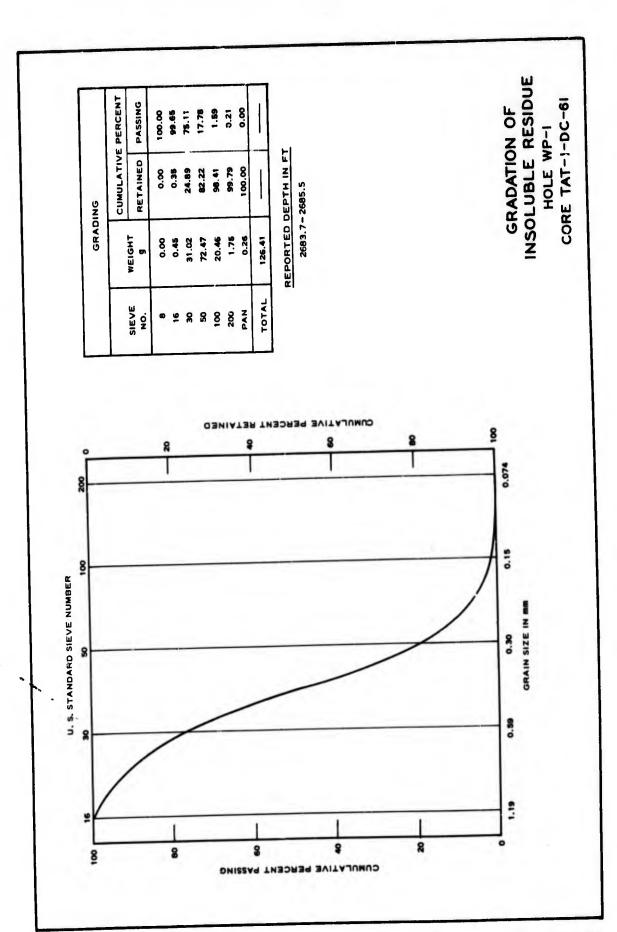


PLATE 60

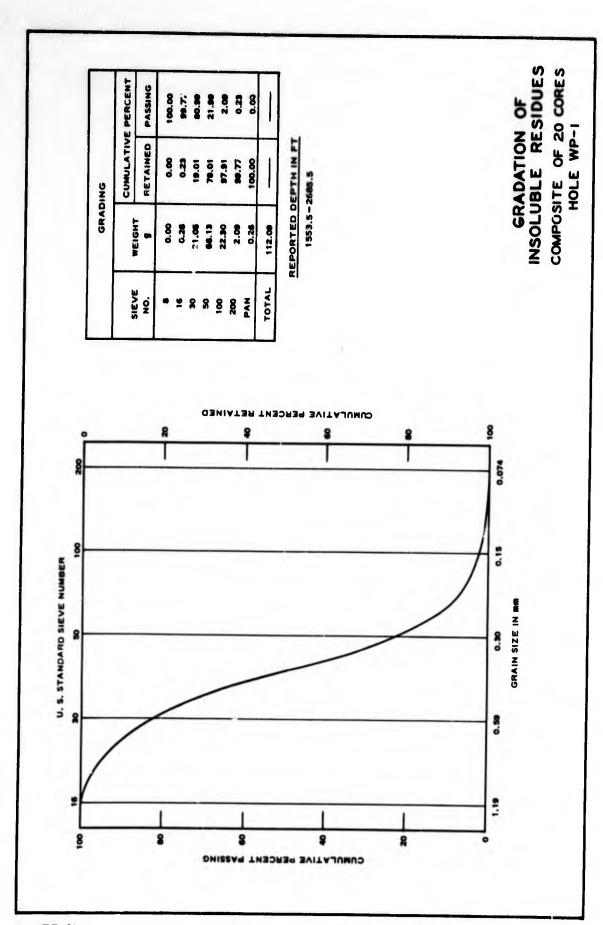


PLATE 61

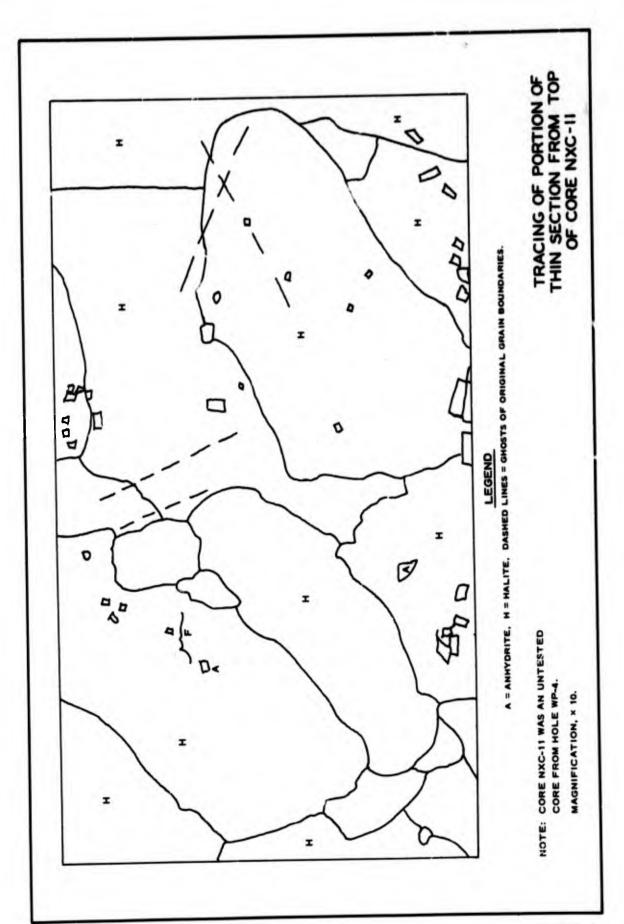
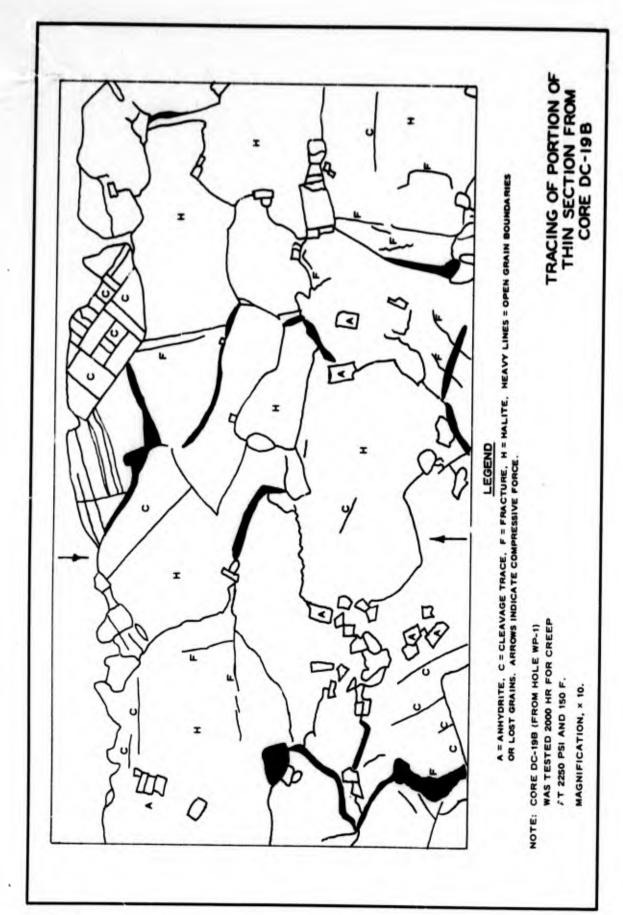
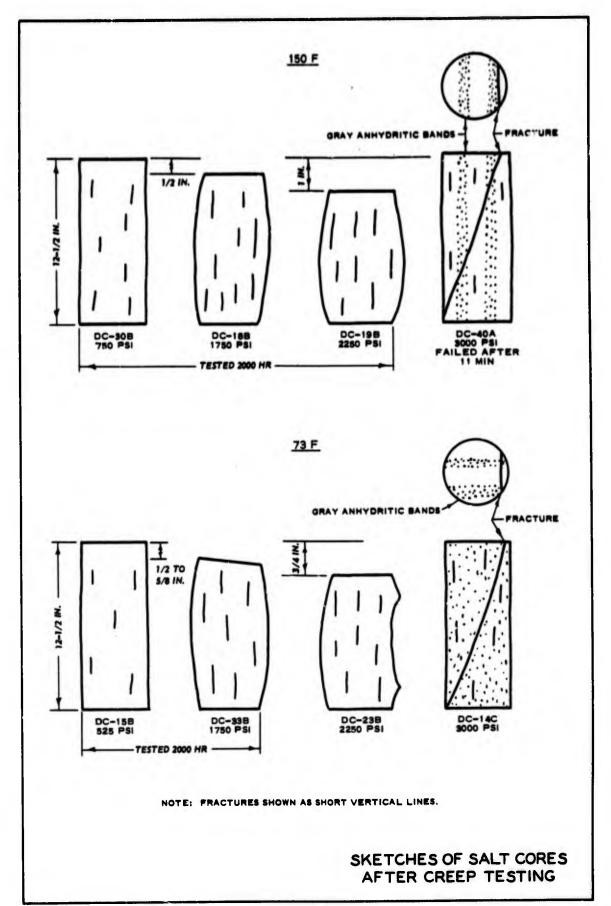
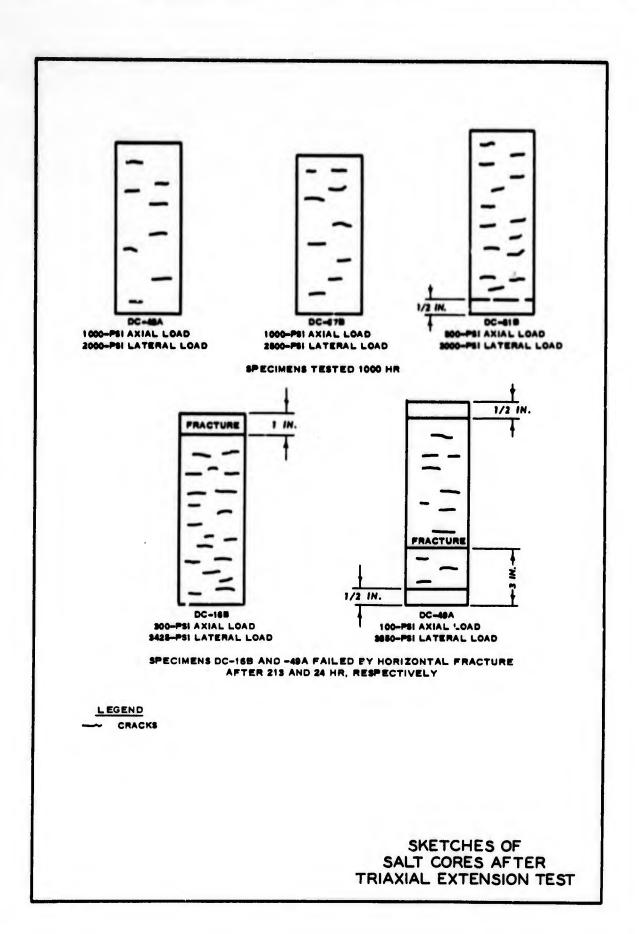
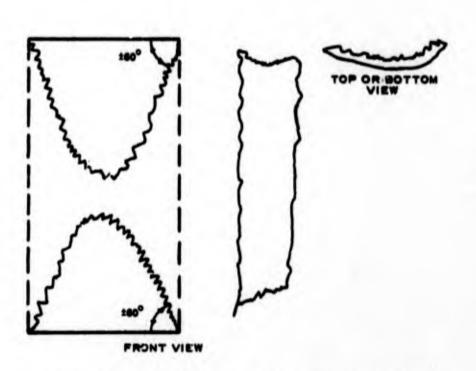


PLATE 62









NOTE: THE ABOVE VIEWS ILLUSTRATE THE TYPE OF FAILURE WHICH CORES HAD OR TENDED TO HAVE.

___ PRETEST CORE

SKETCHES OF SALT CORE AND SURFACE FRAGMENT THEREFROM AFTER FAILURE IN COMPRESSION TEST

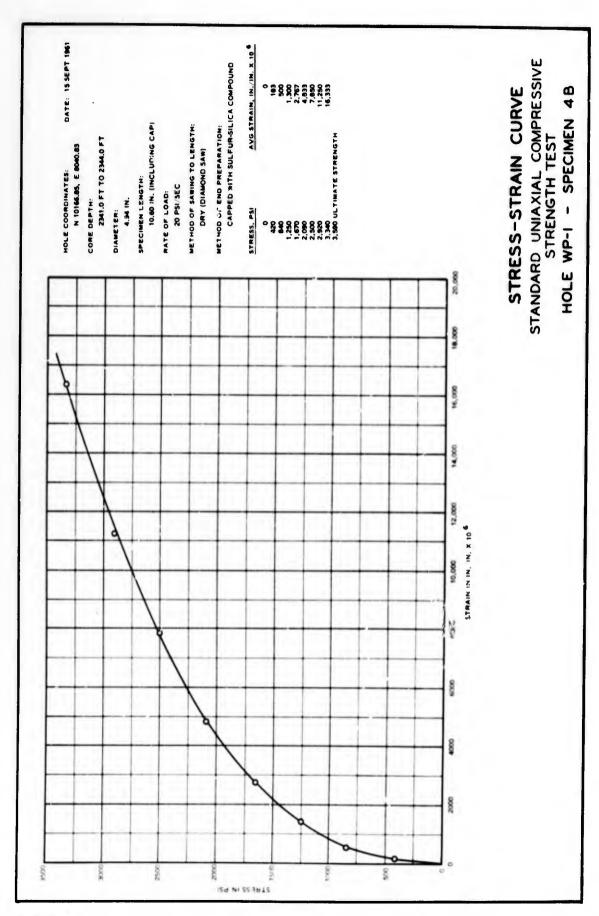


PLATE 67

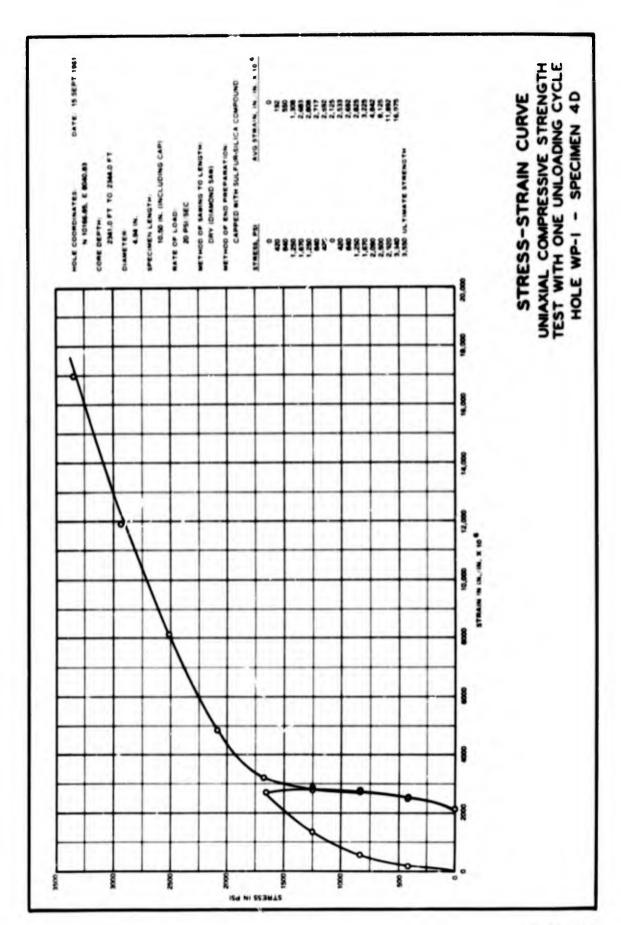


PLATE 68

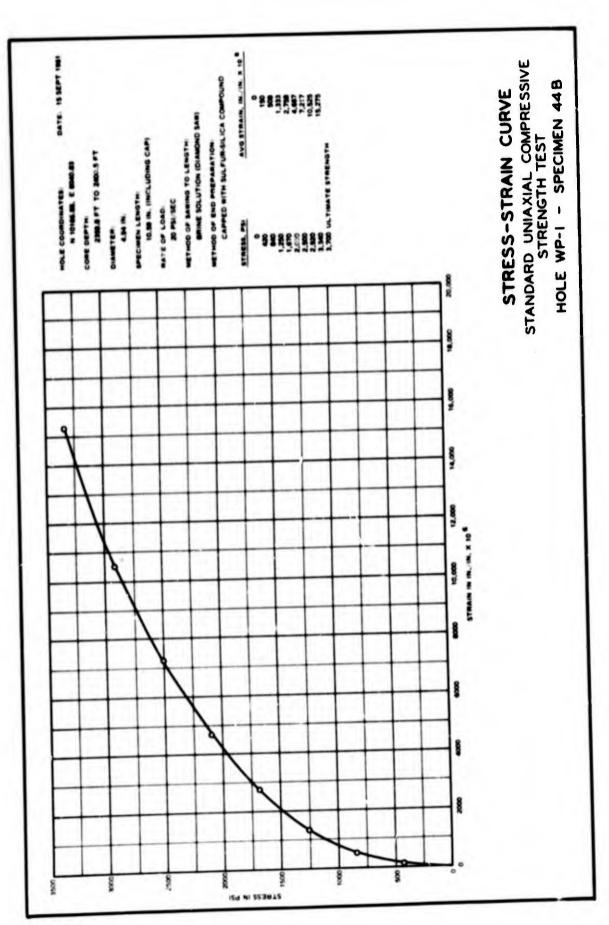
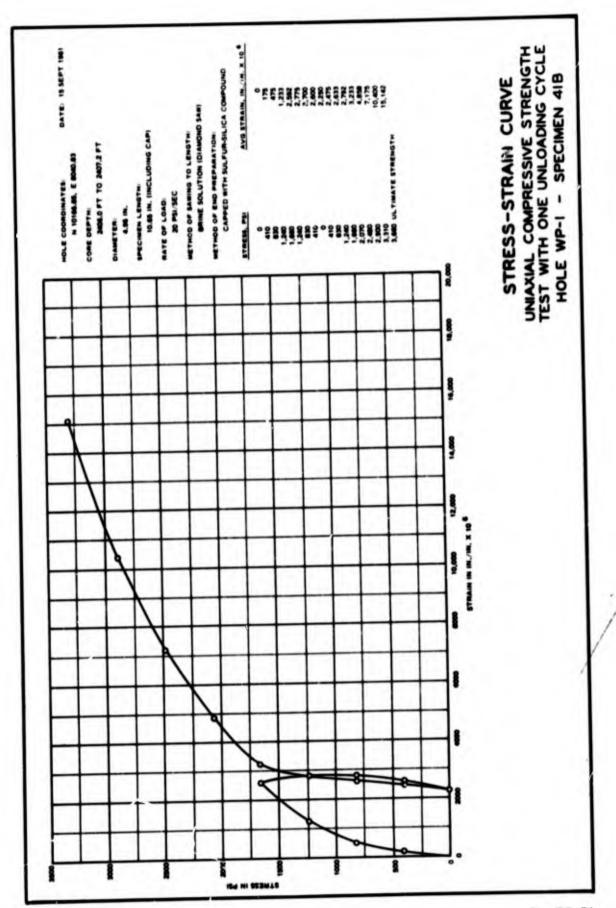


PLATE 69



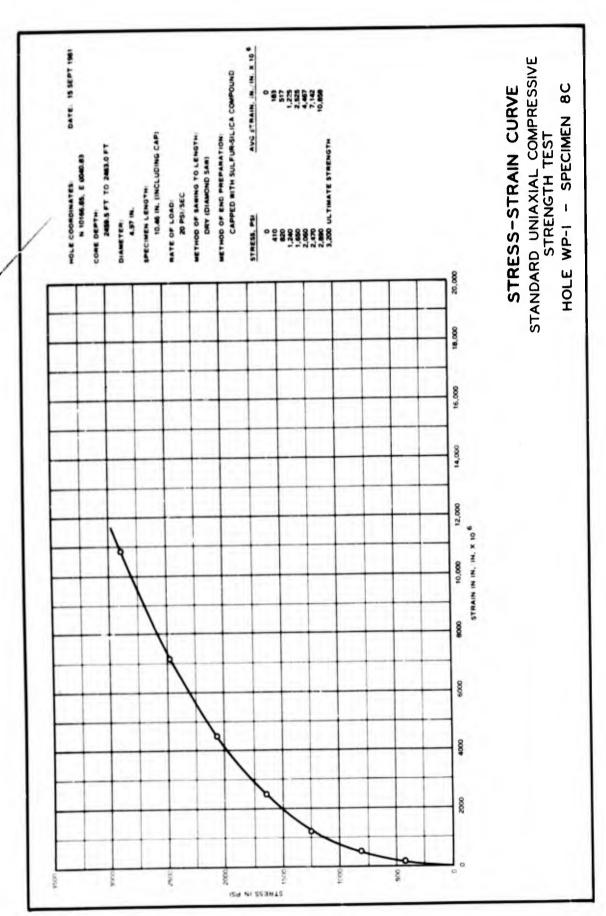
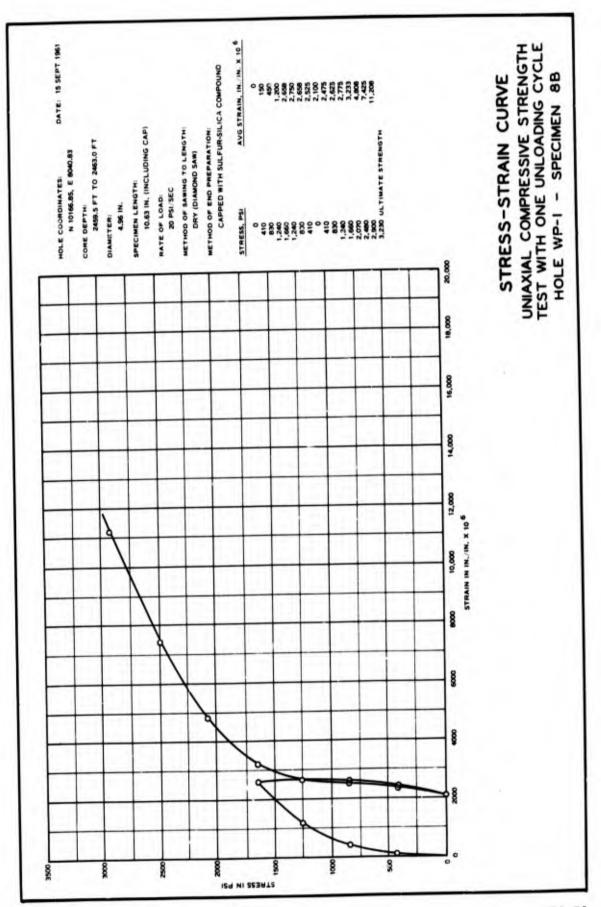
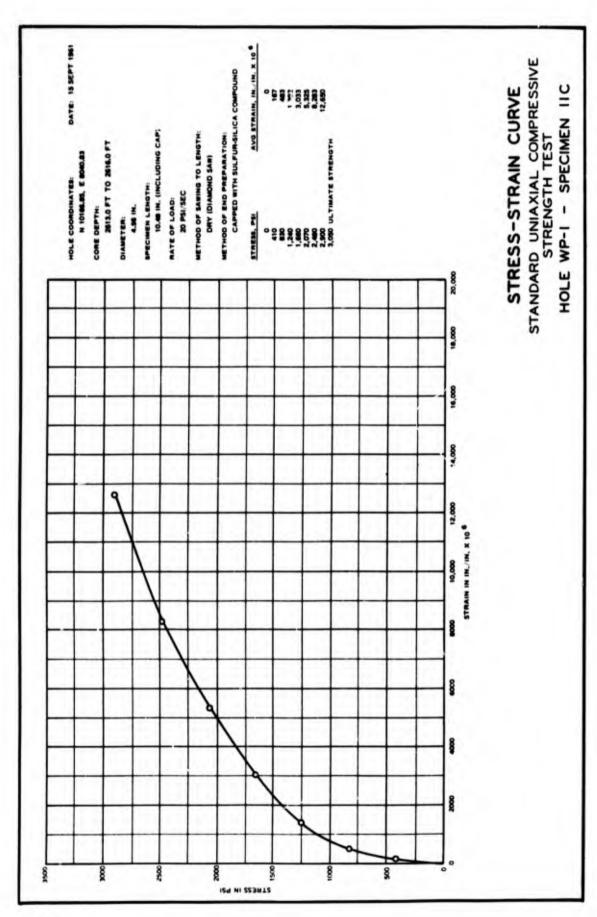
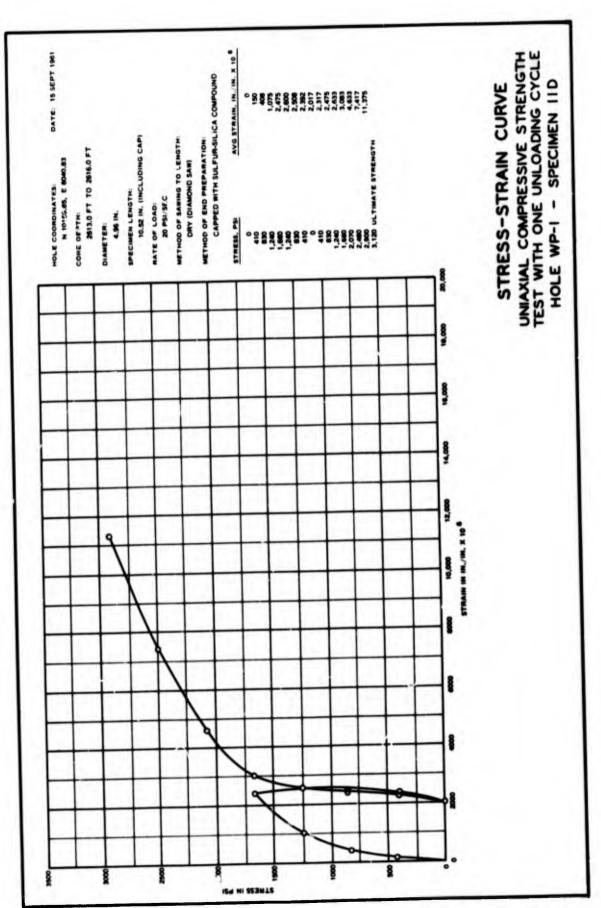
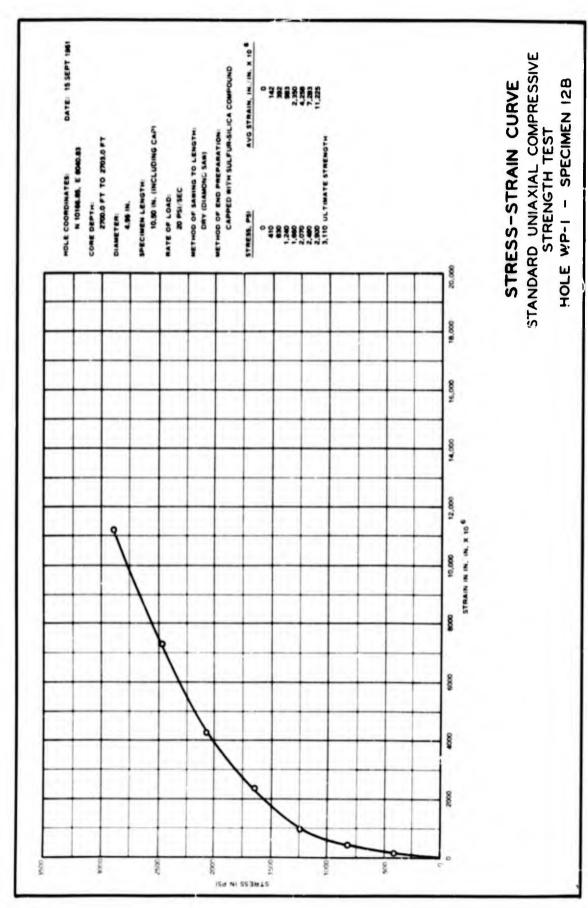


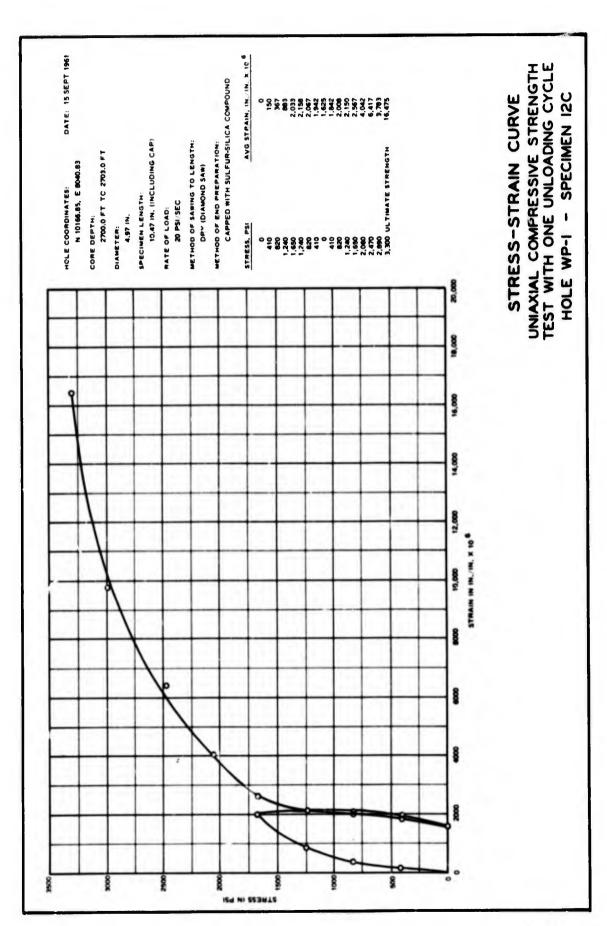
PLATE 7

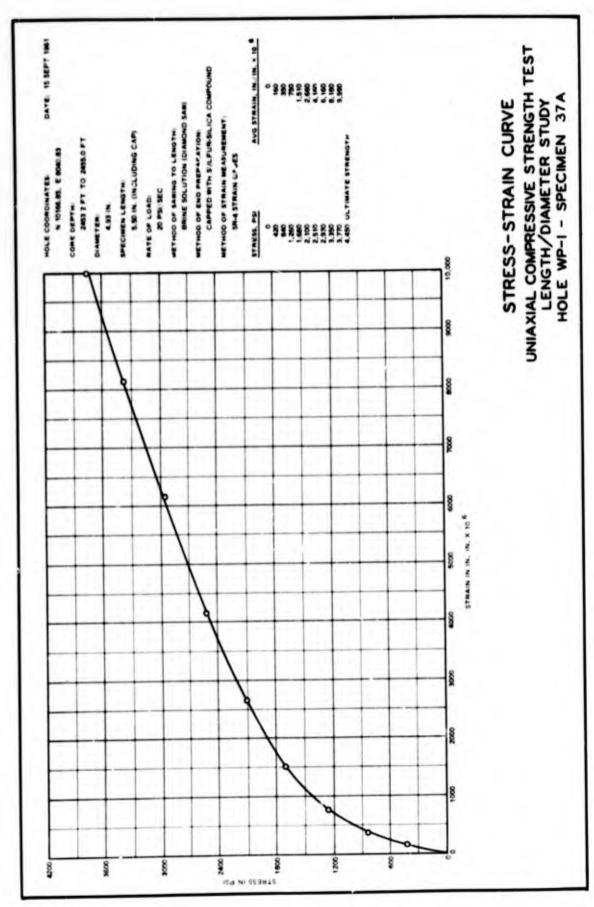


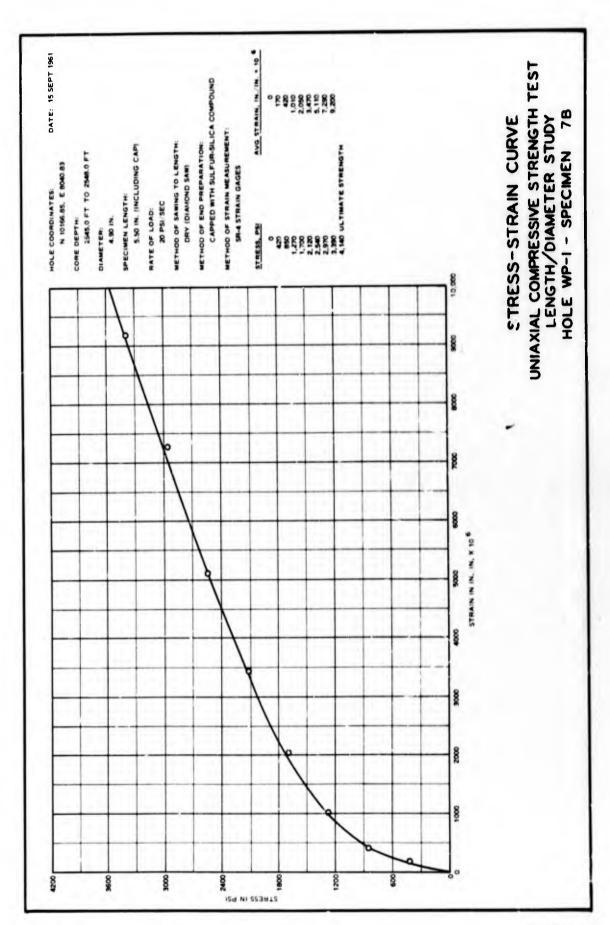












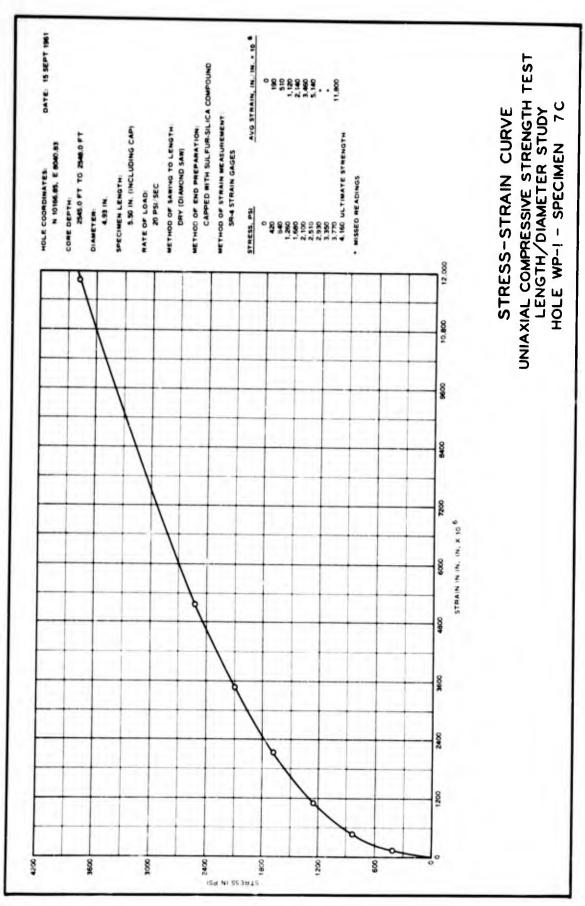
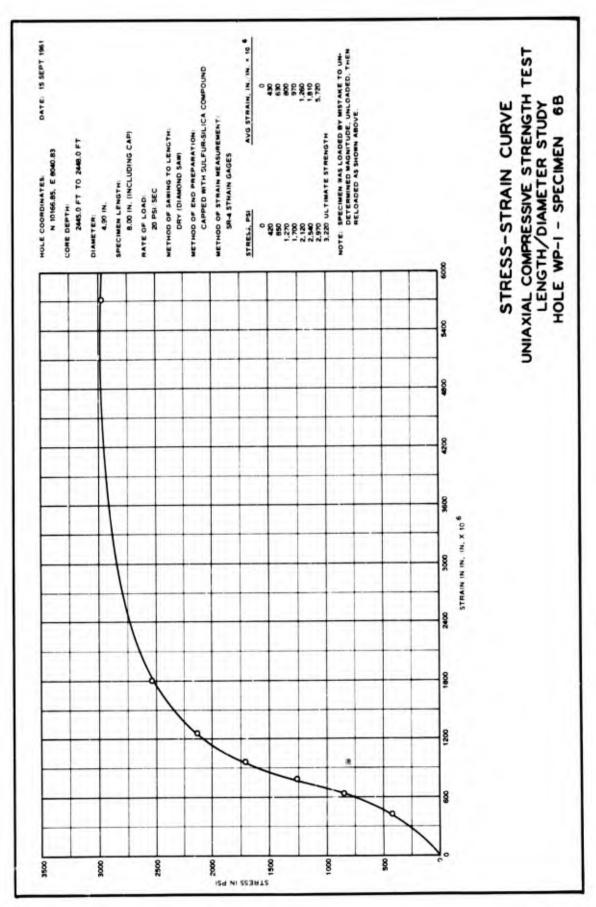
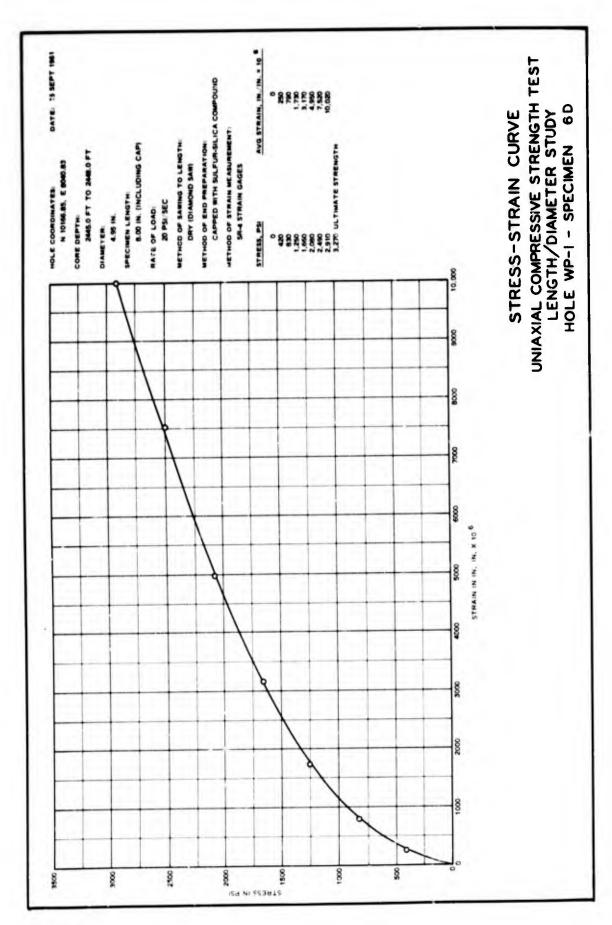
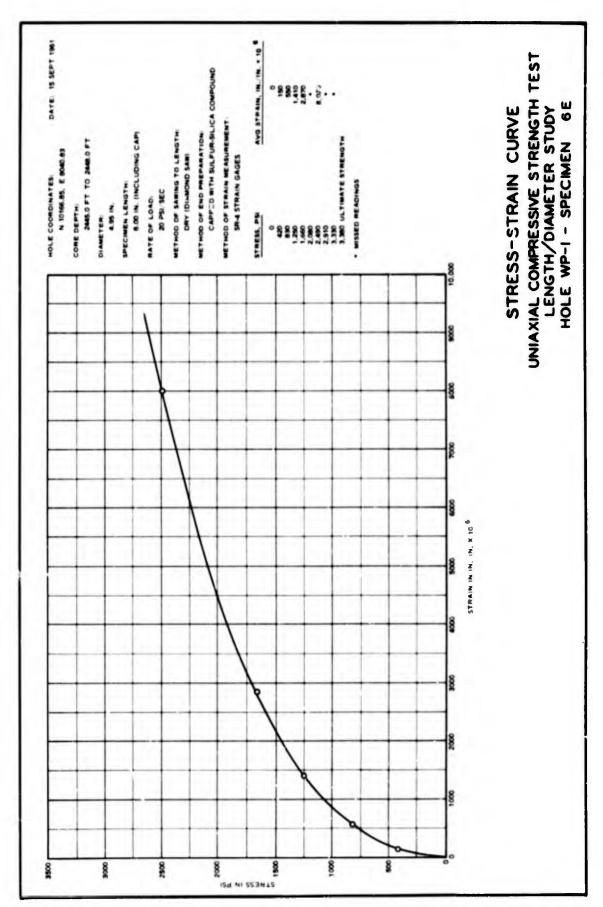
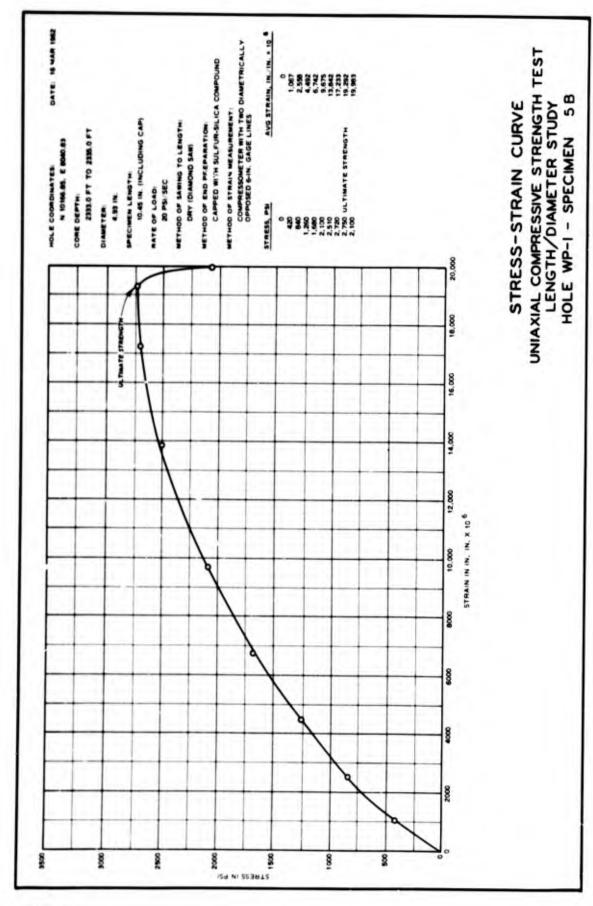


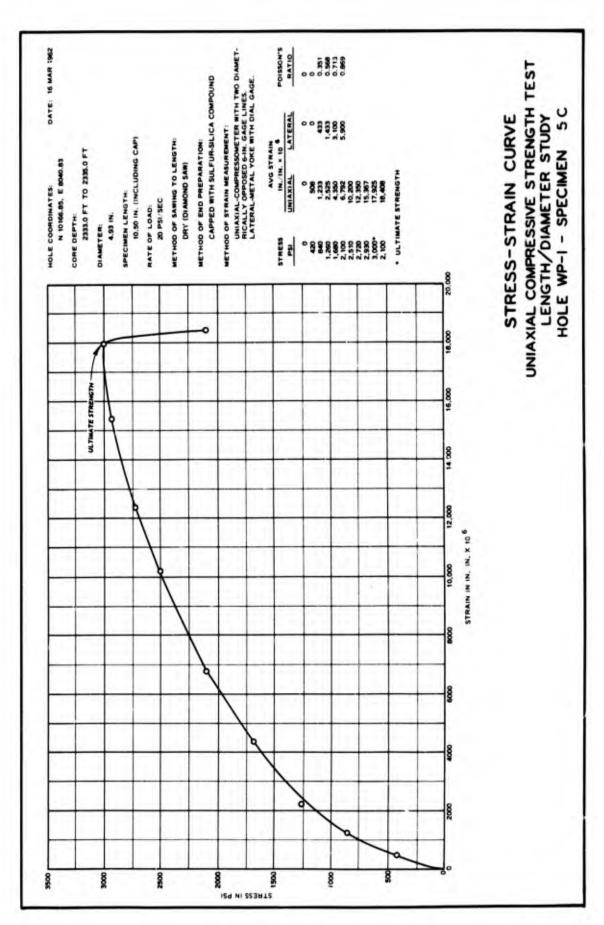
PLATE 79

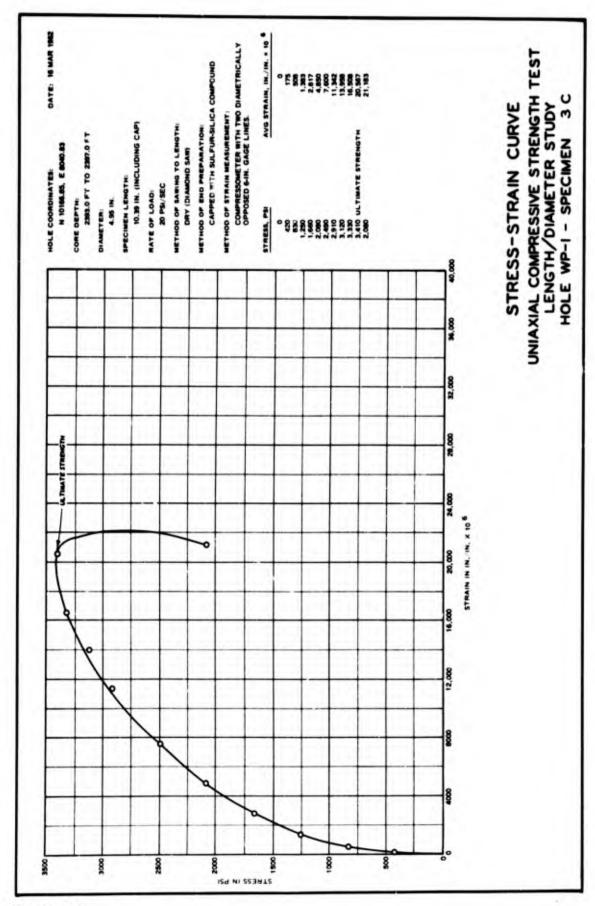


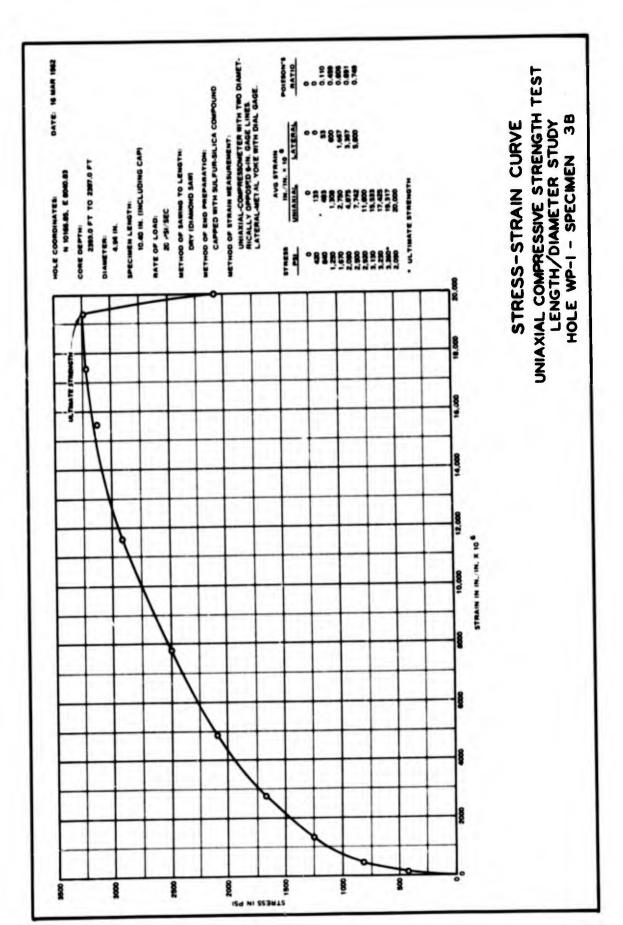


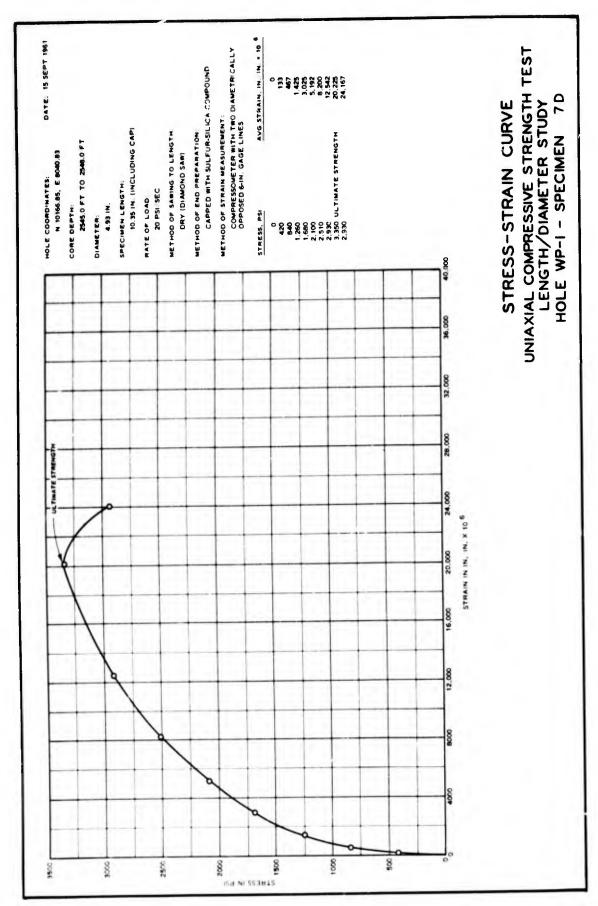


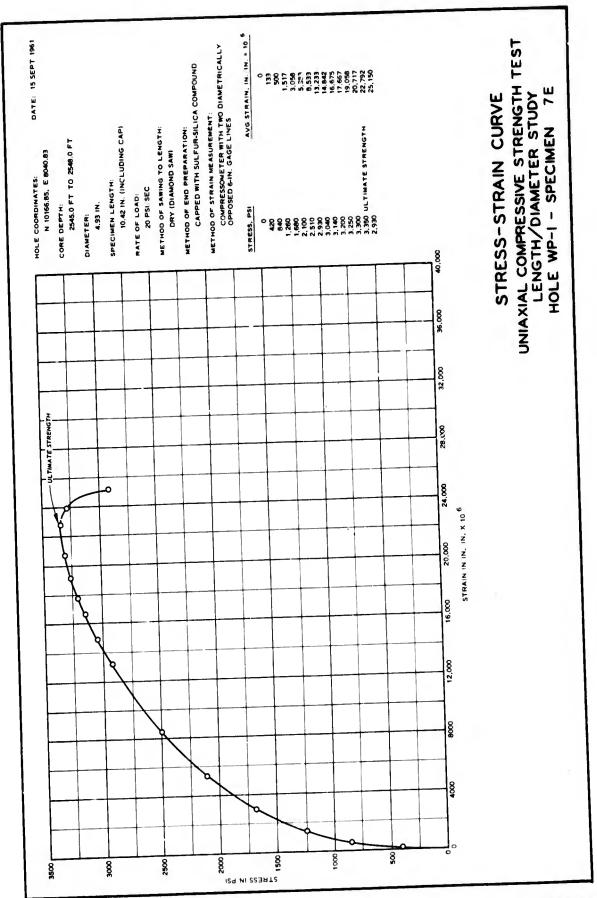


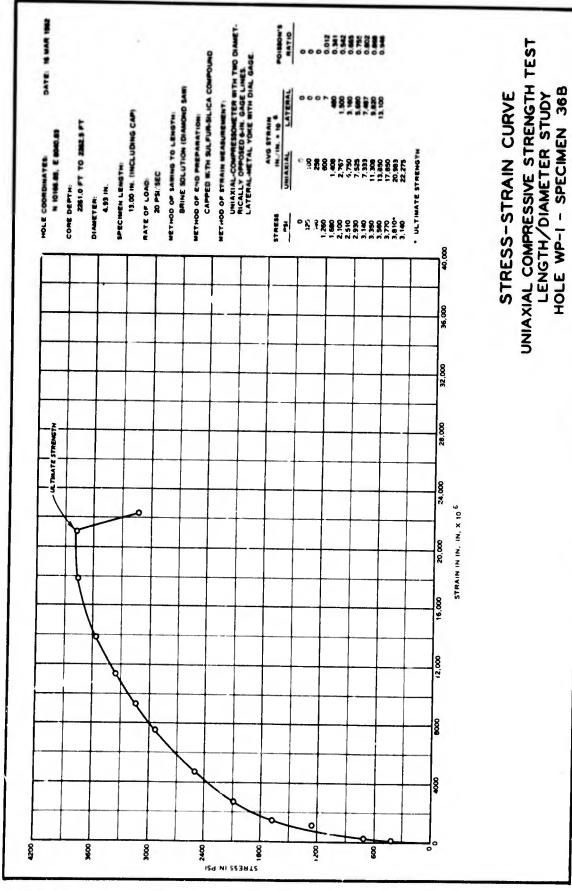


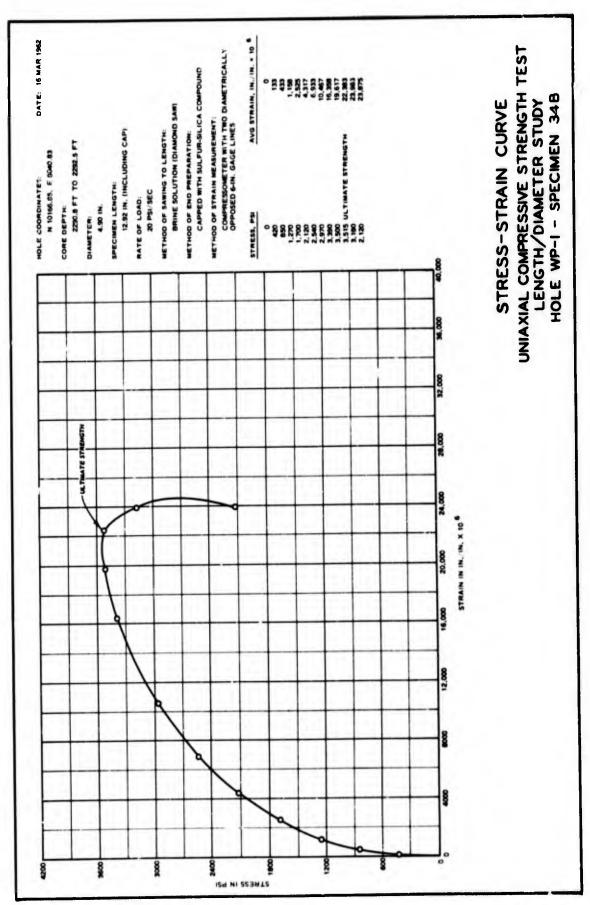












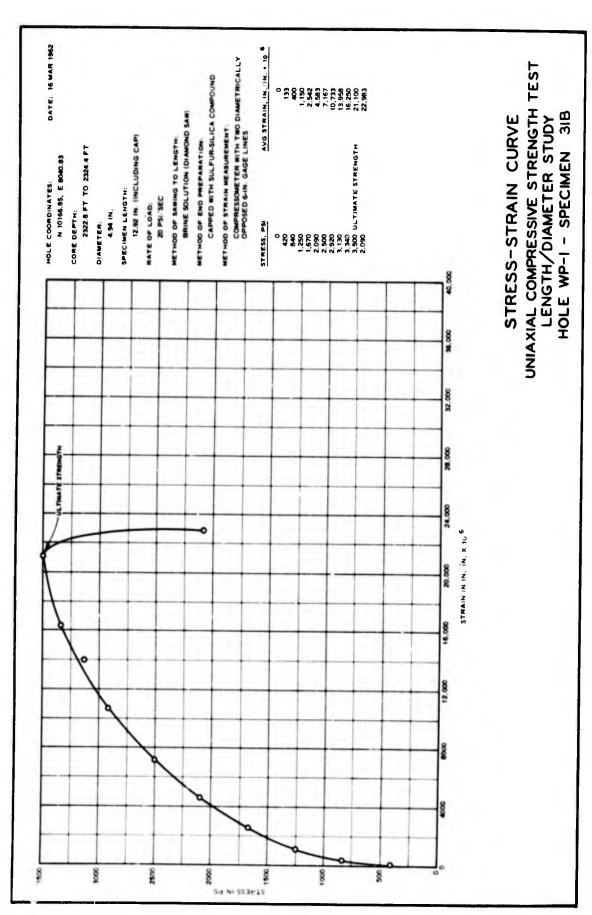
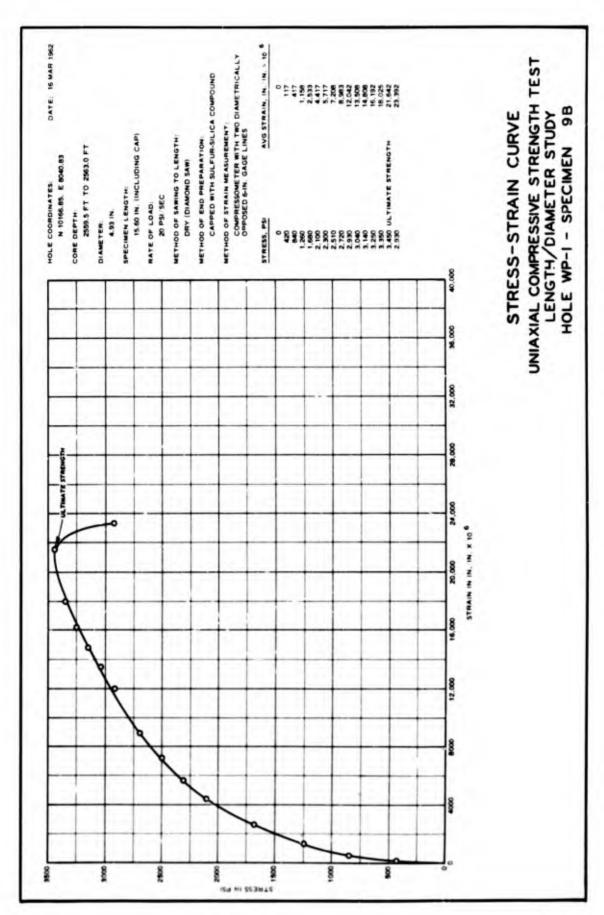
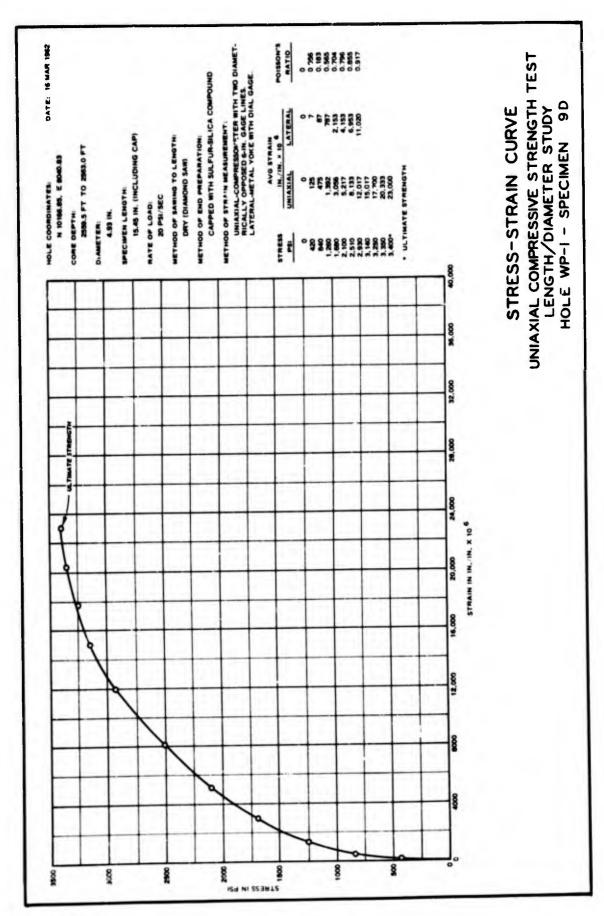
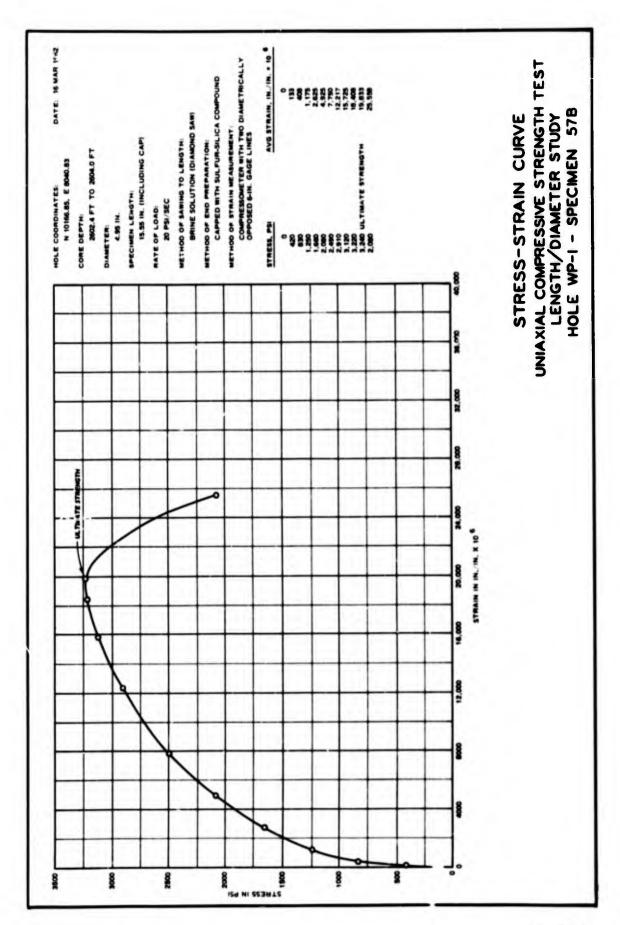
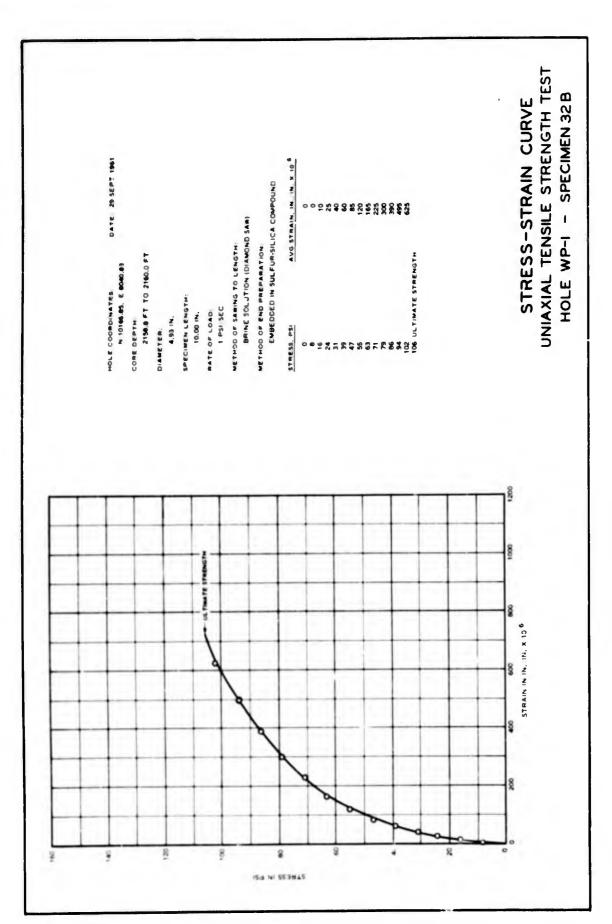


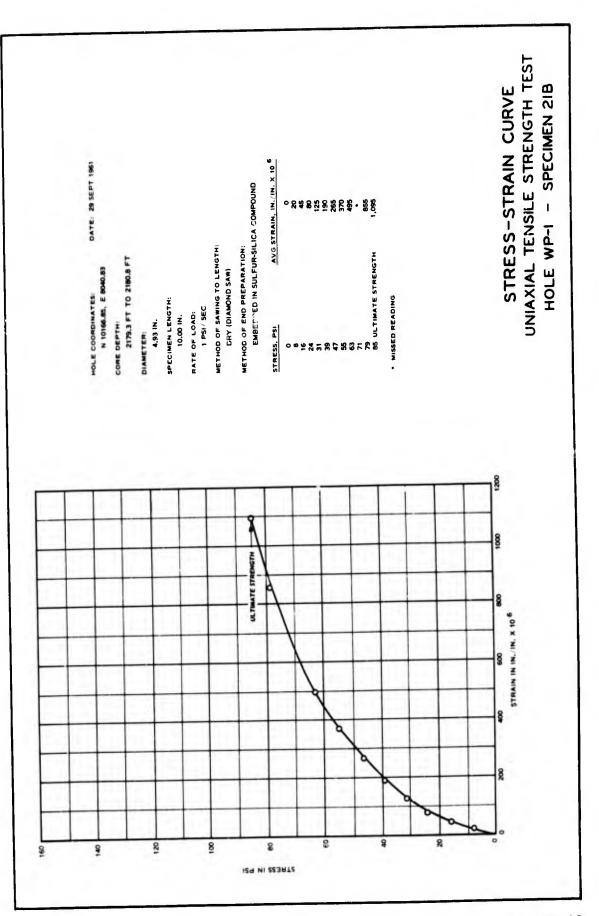
PLATE 91

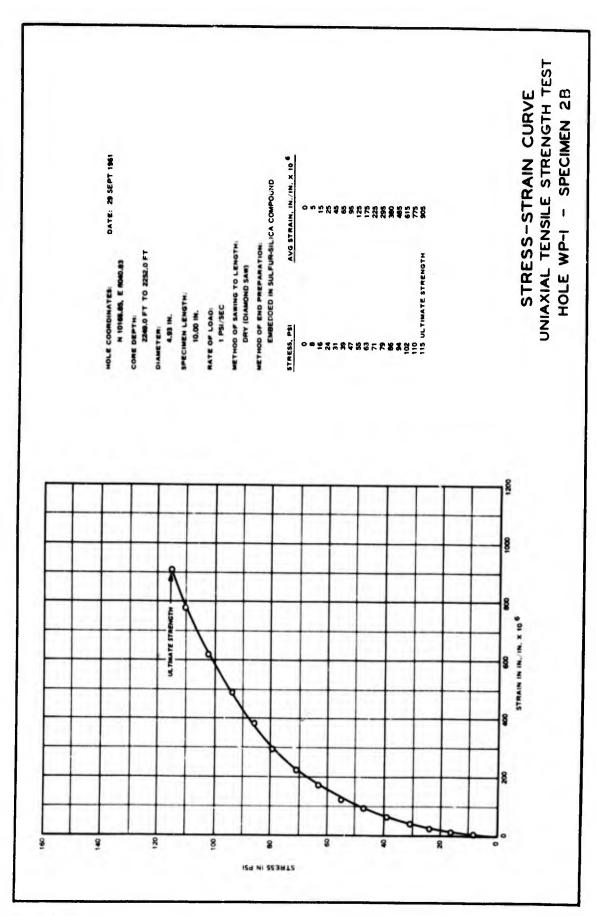


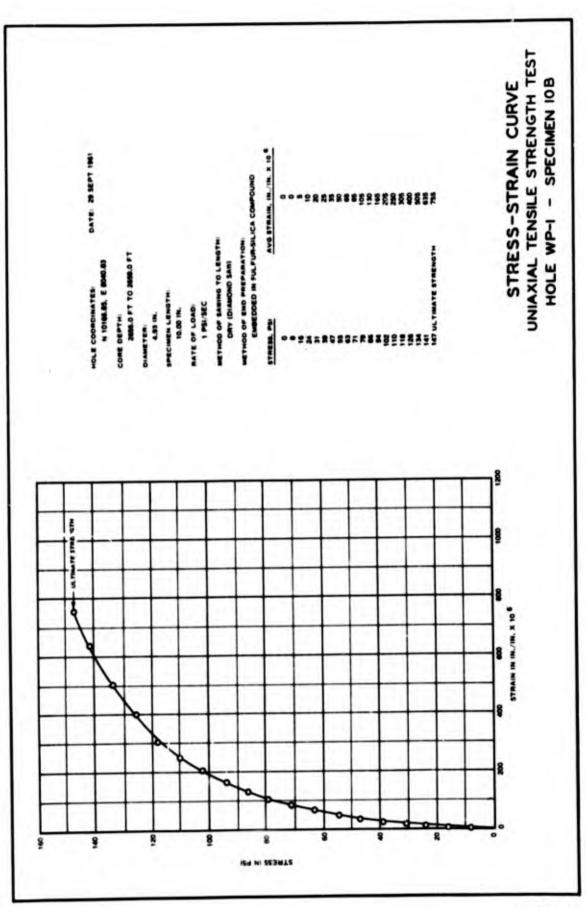


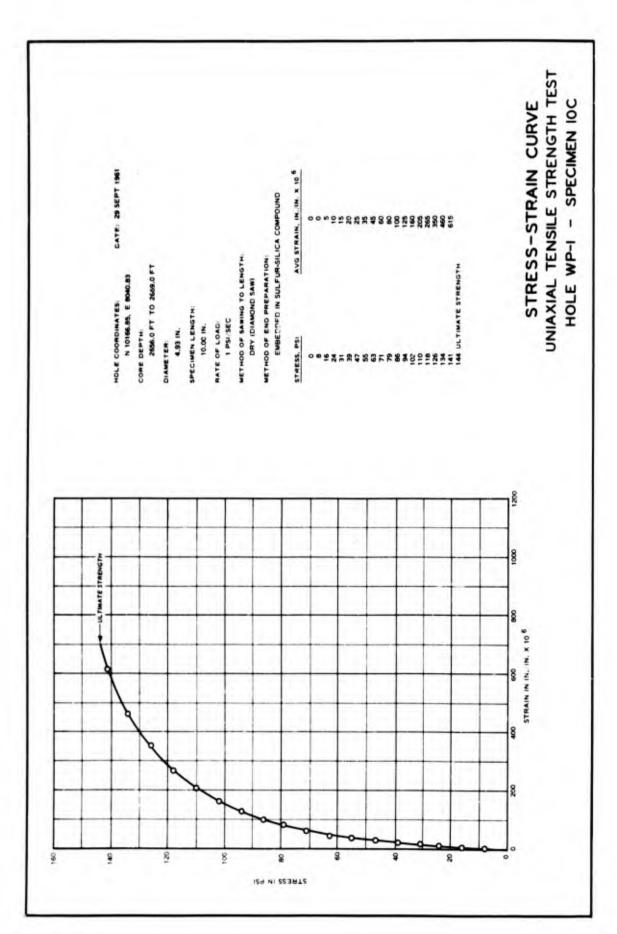


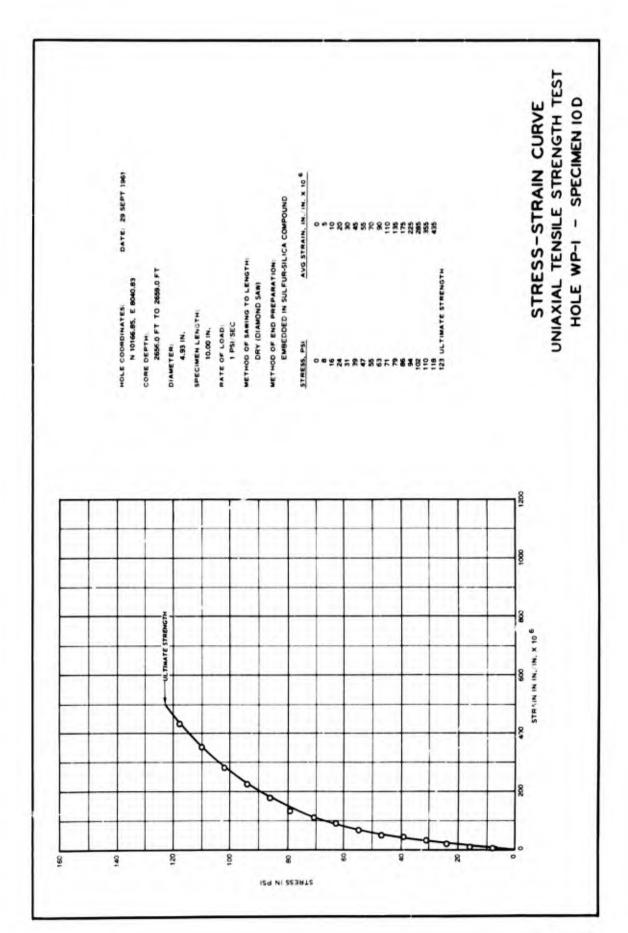


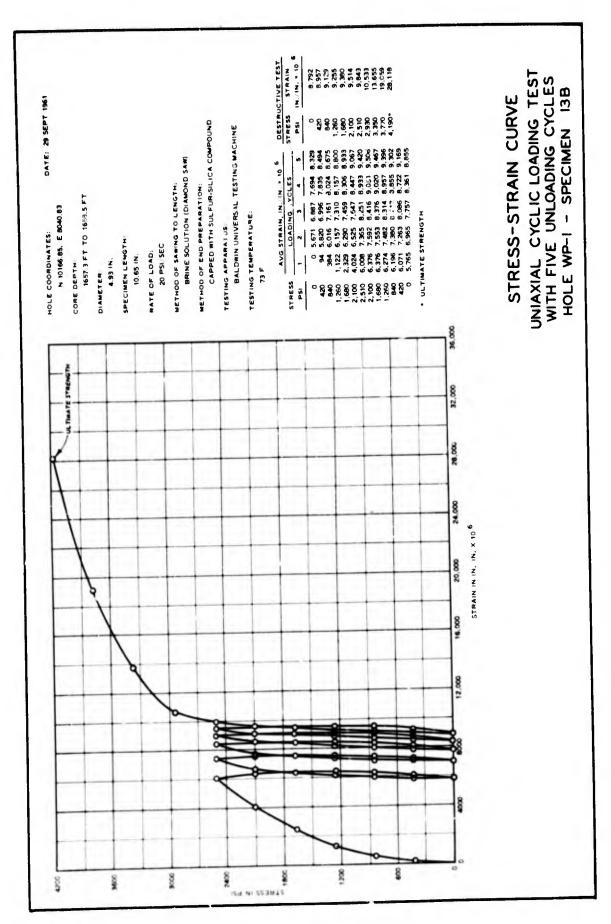


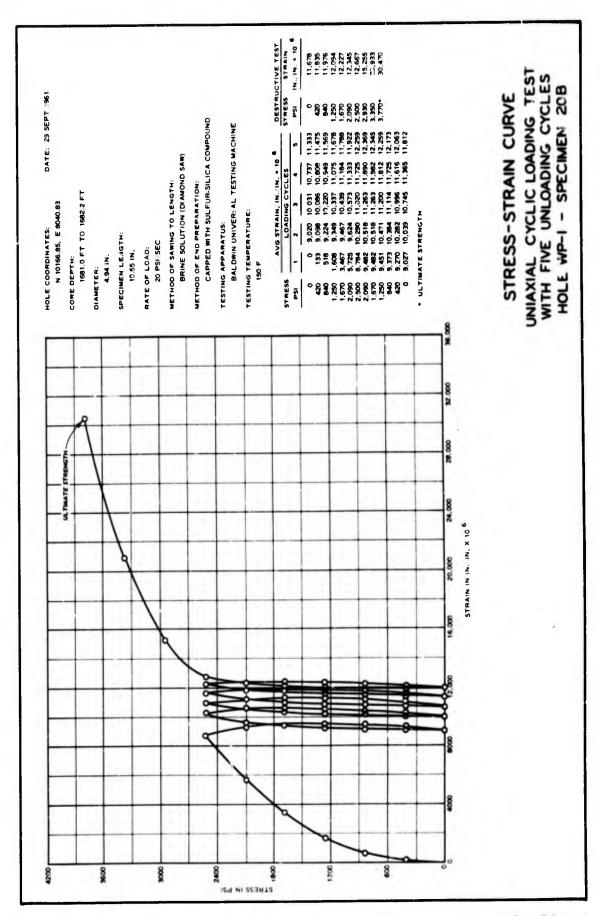


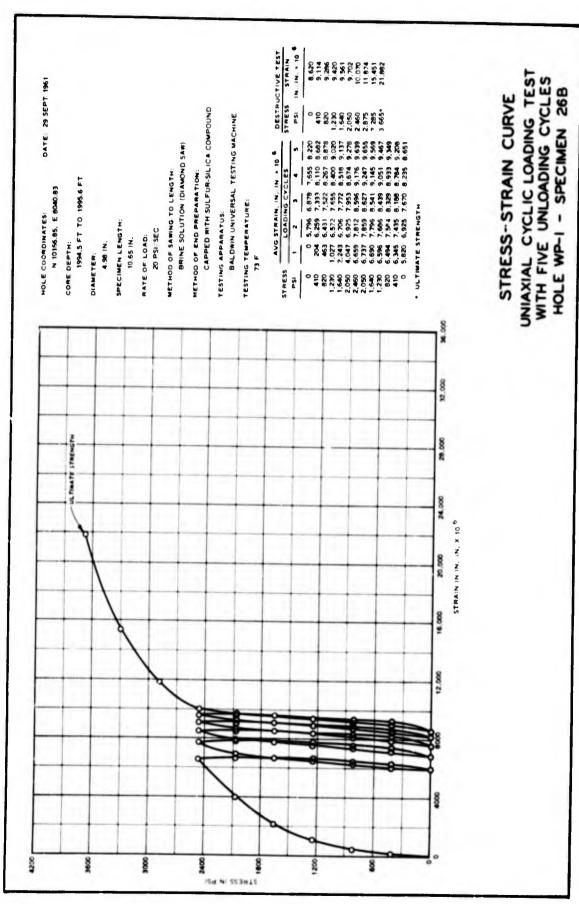


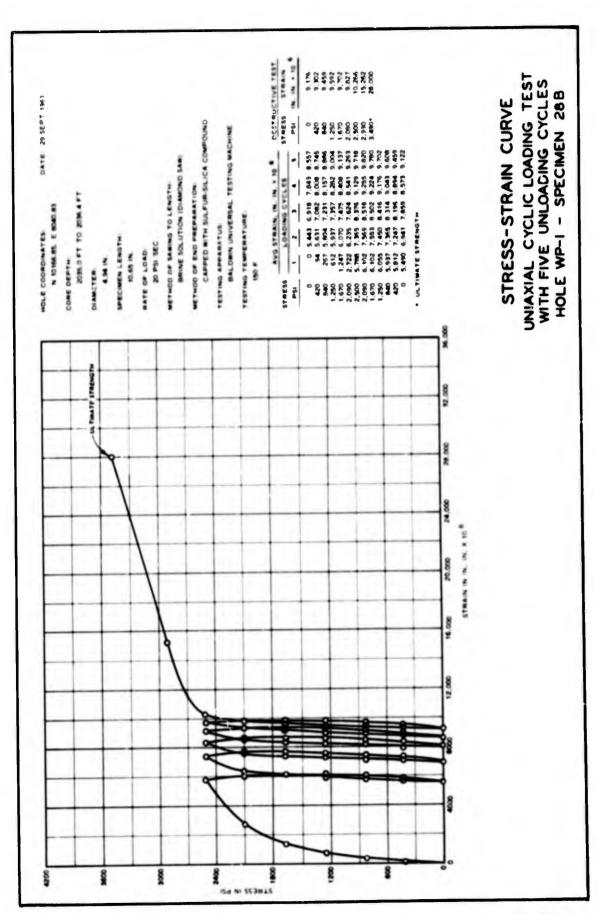












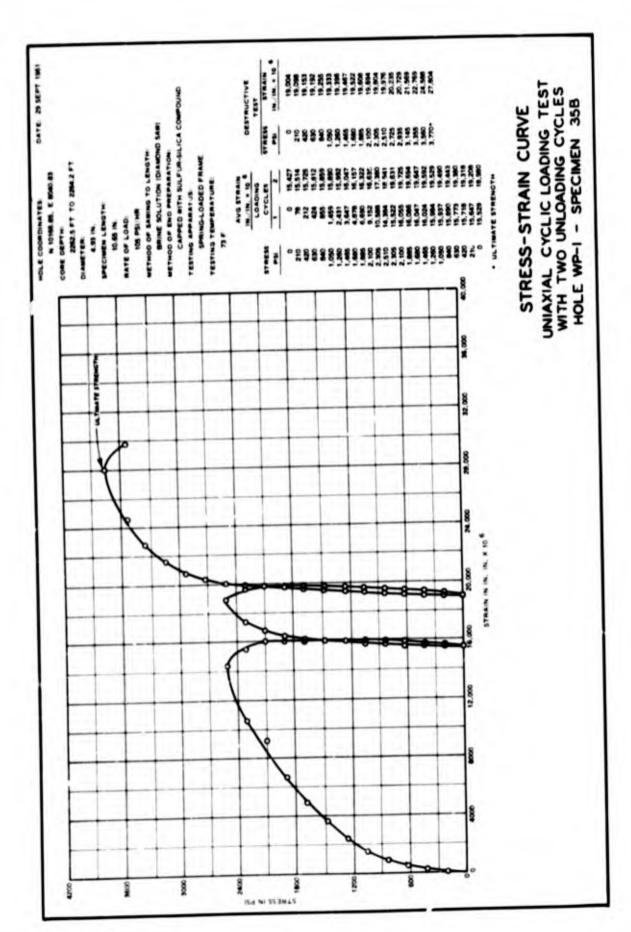
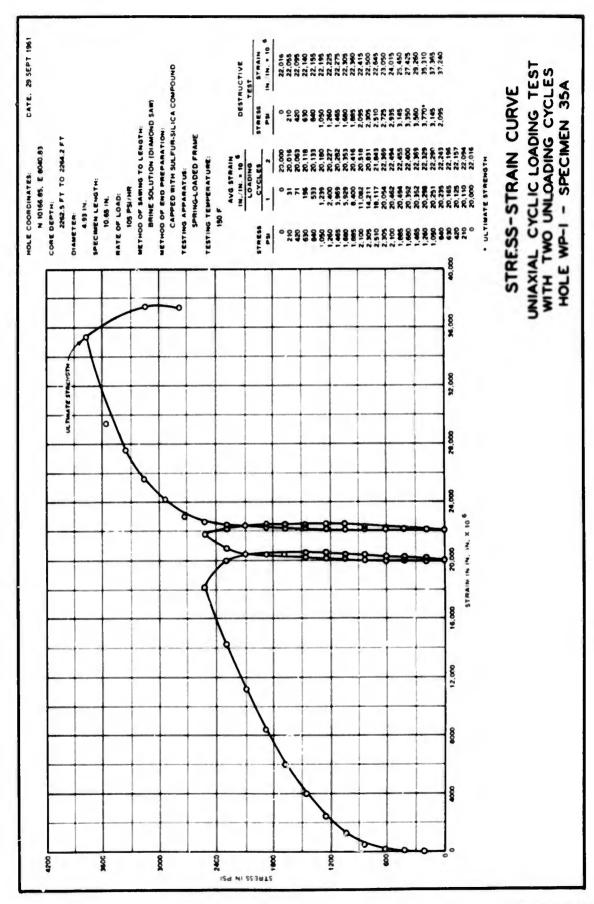


PLATE 105



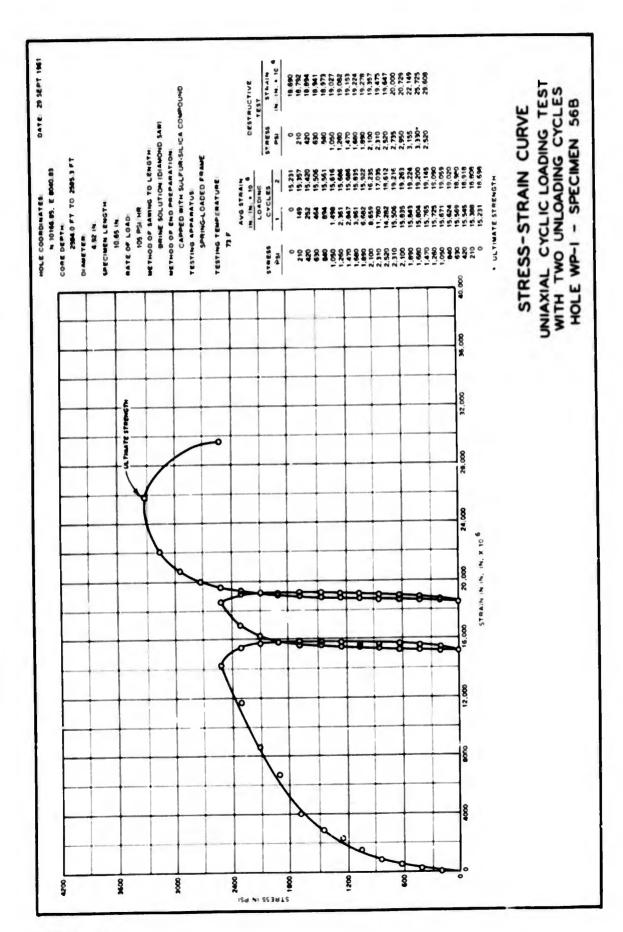
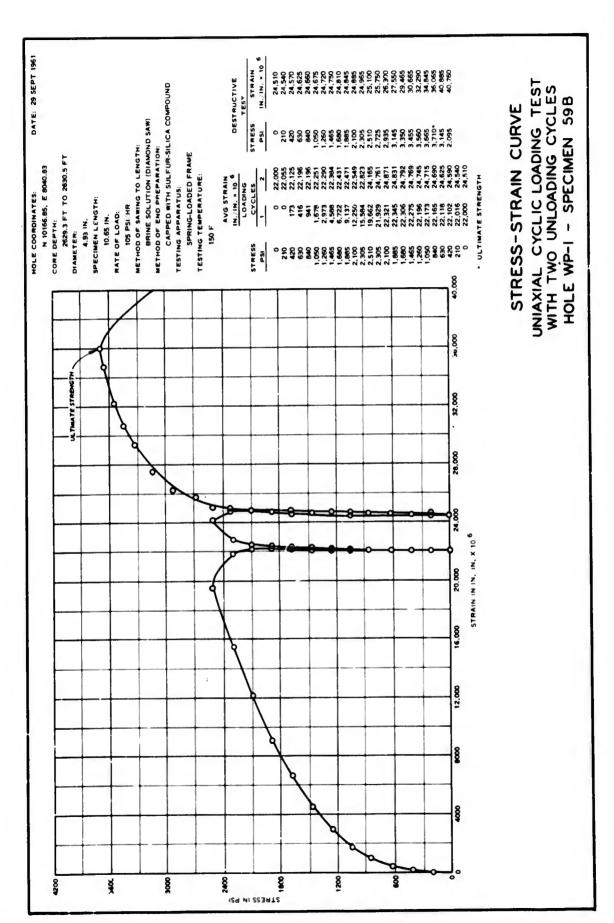
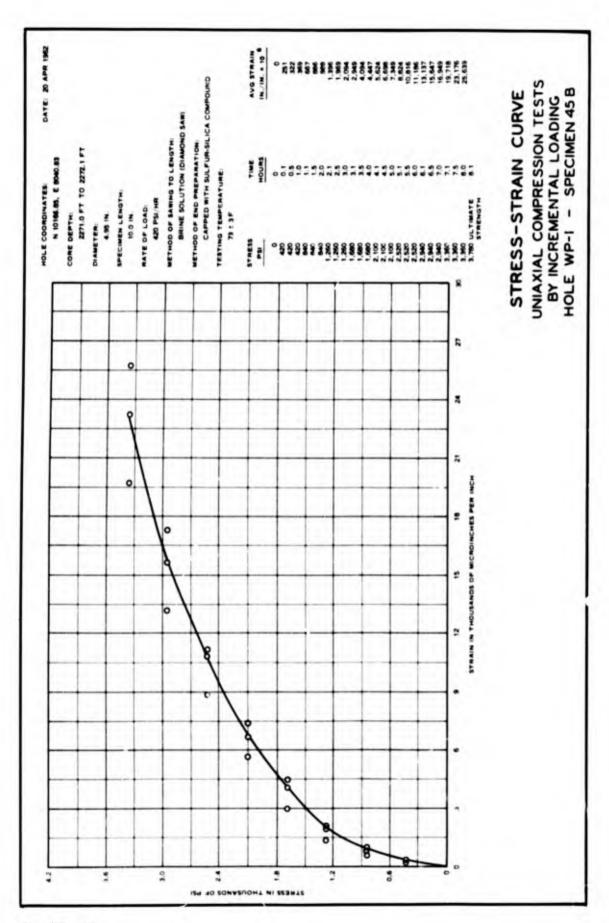
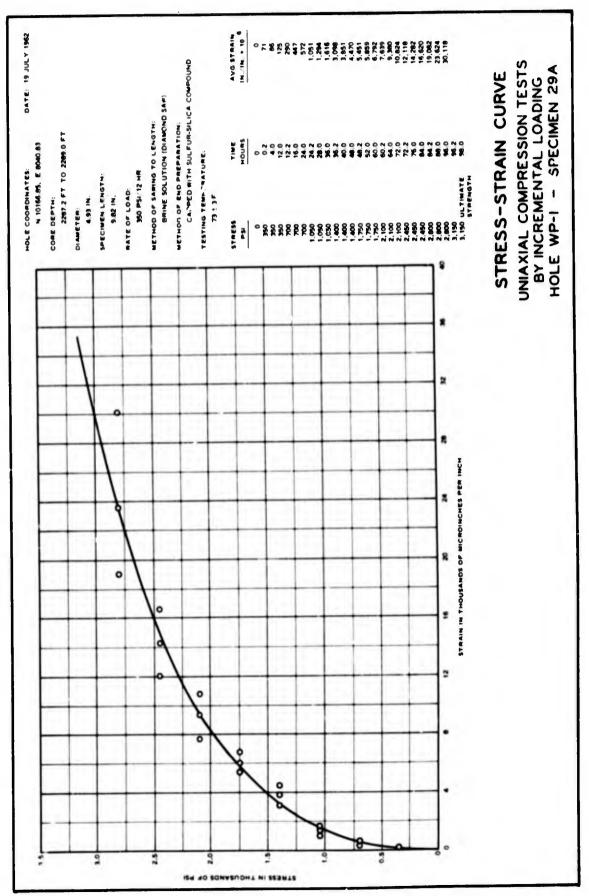


PLATE 107







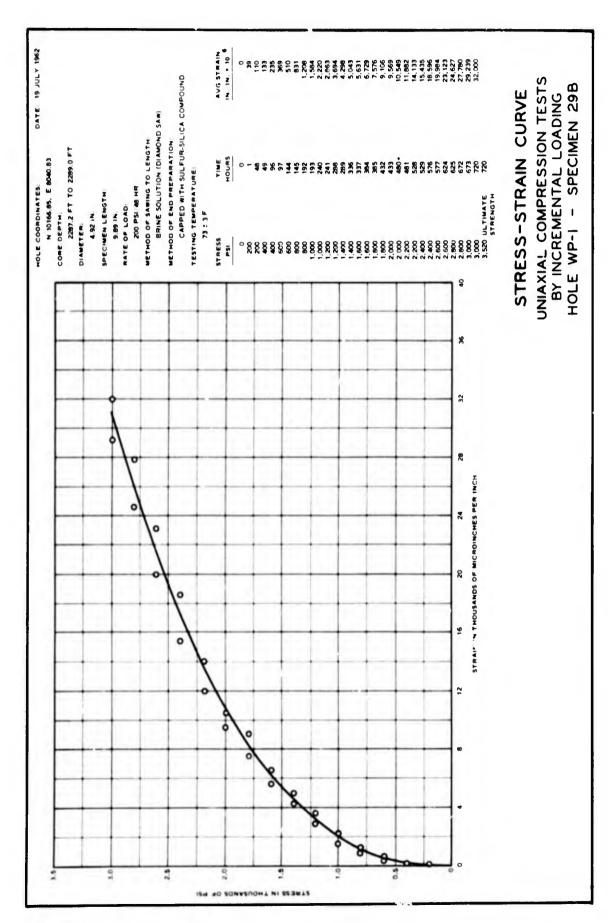
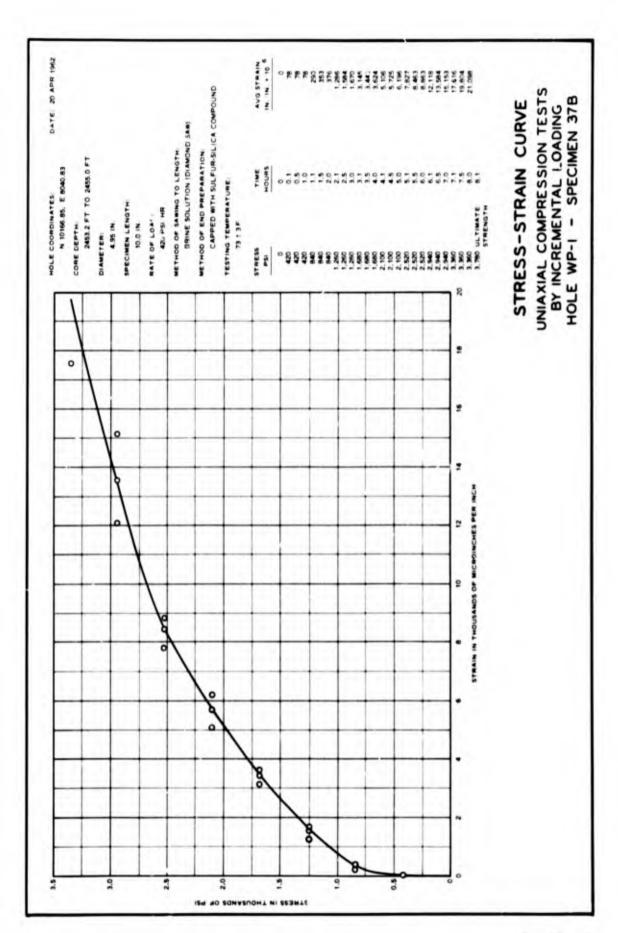
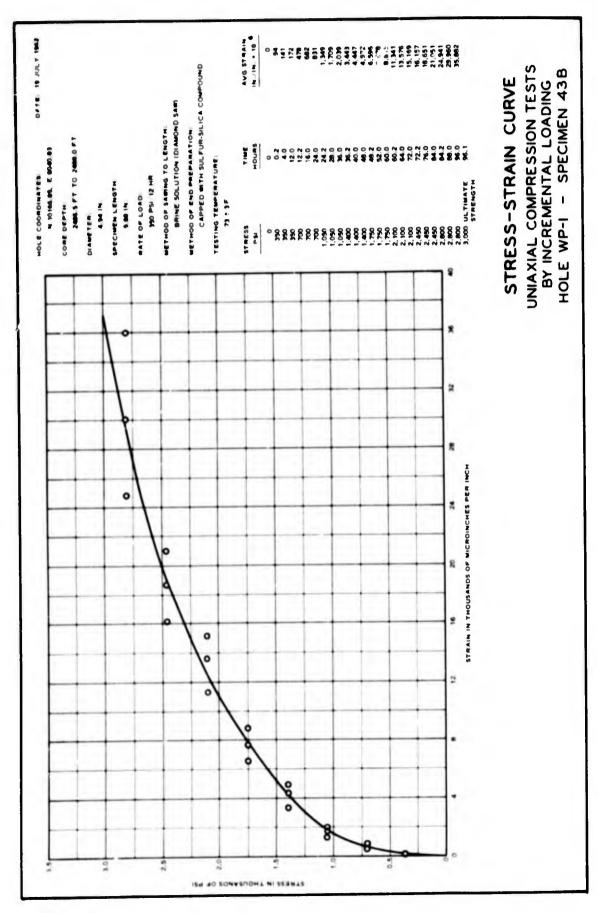
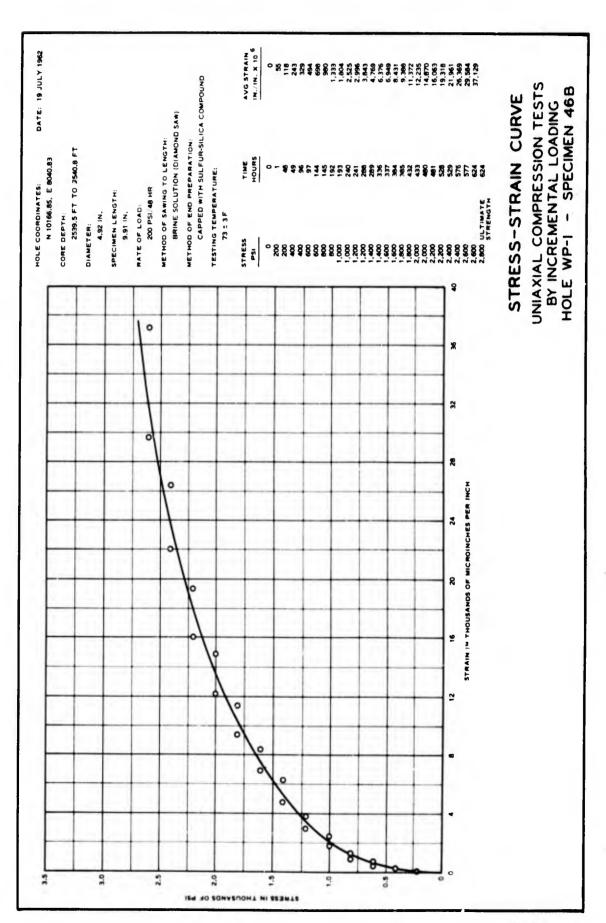


PLATE III







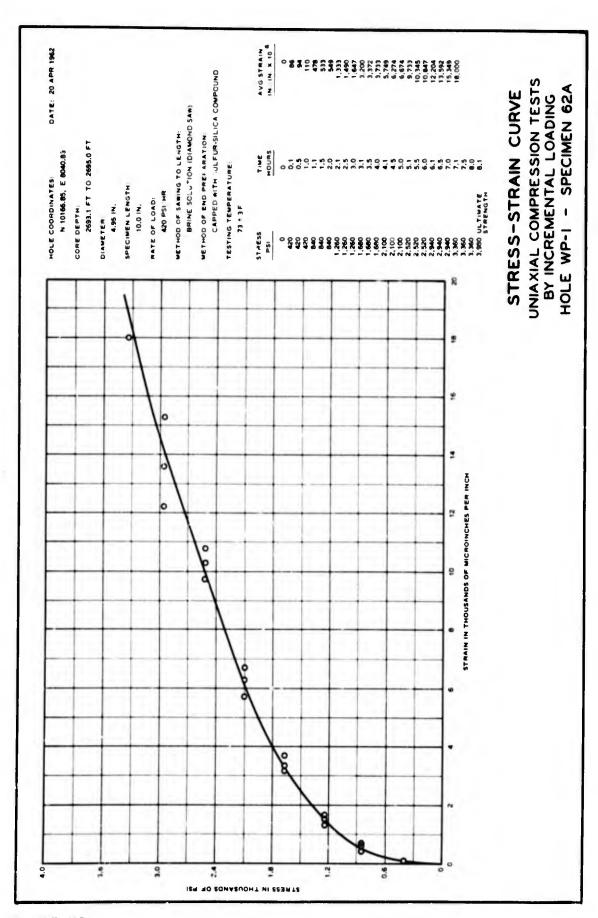


PLATE 115

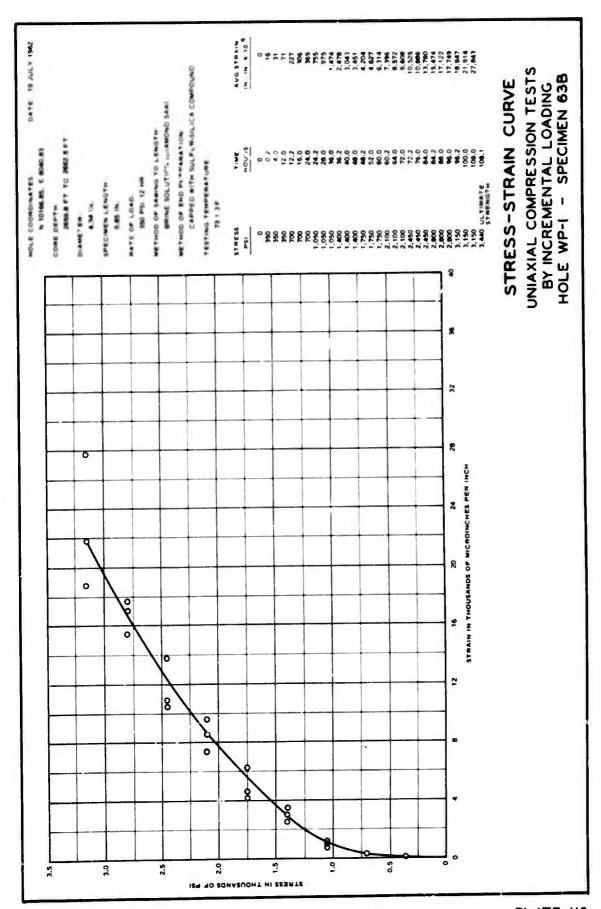


PLATE 116

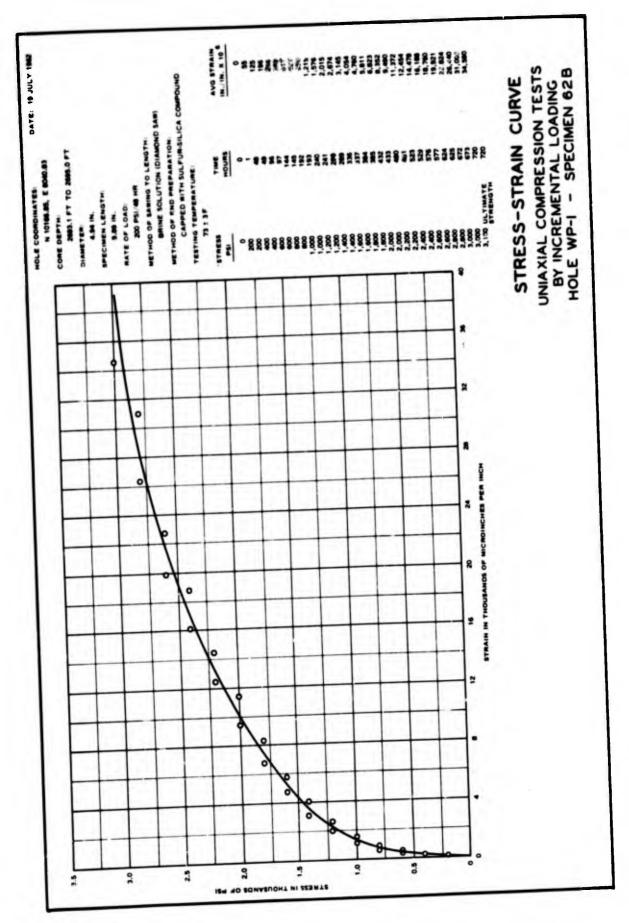
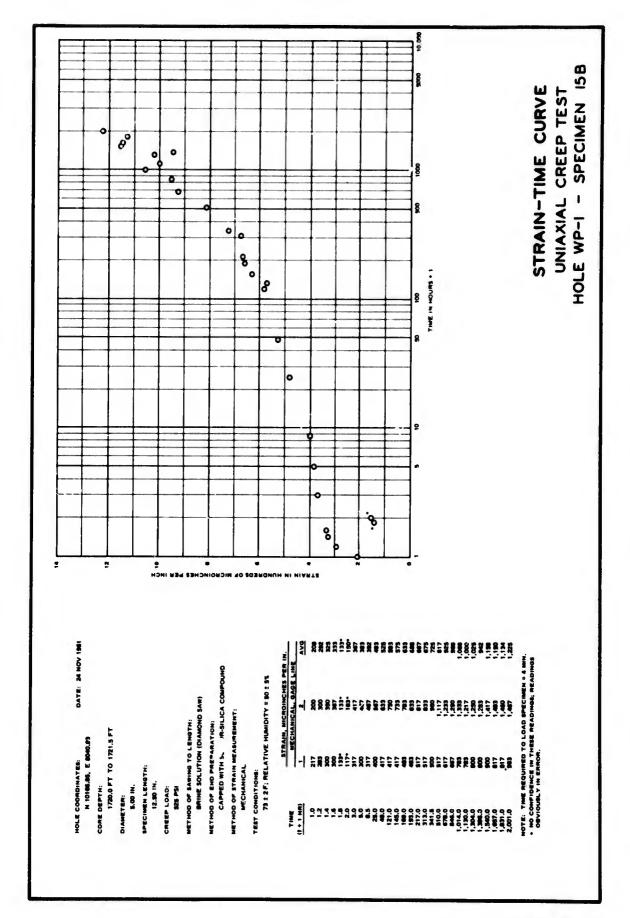


PLATE 117



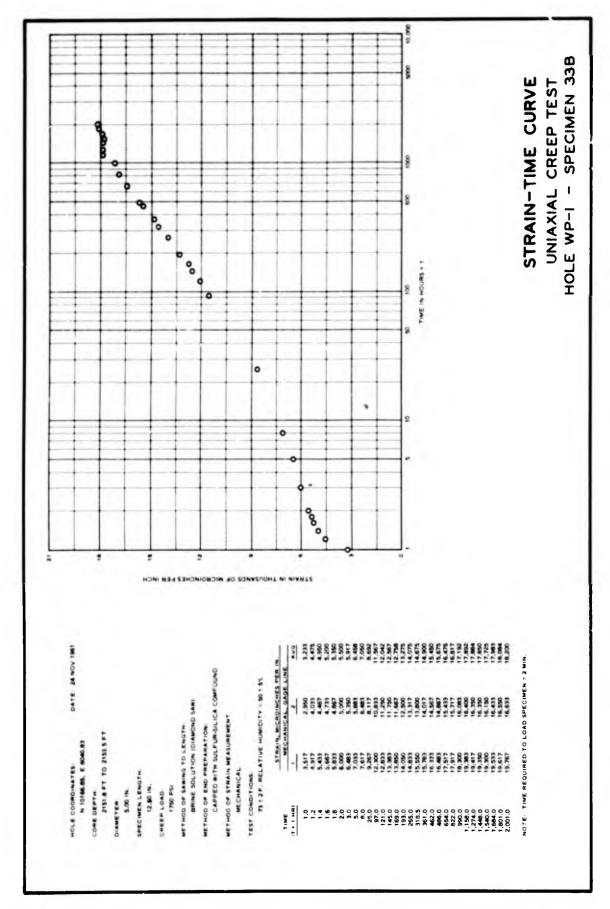


PLATE 119

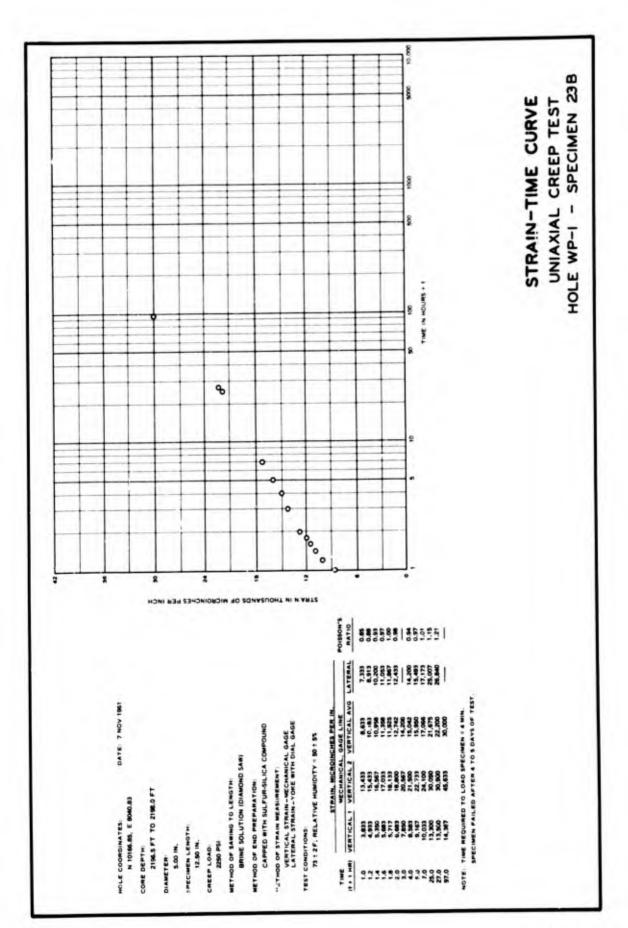
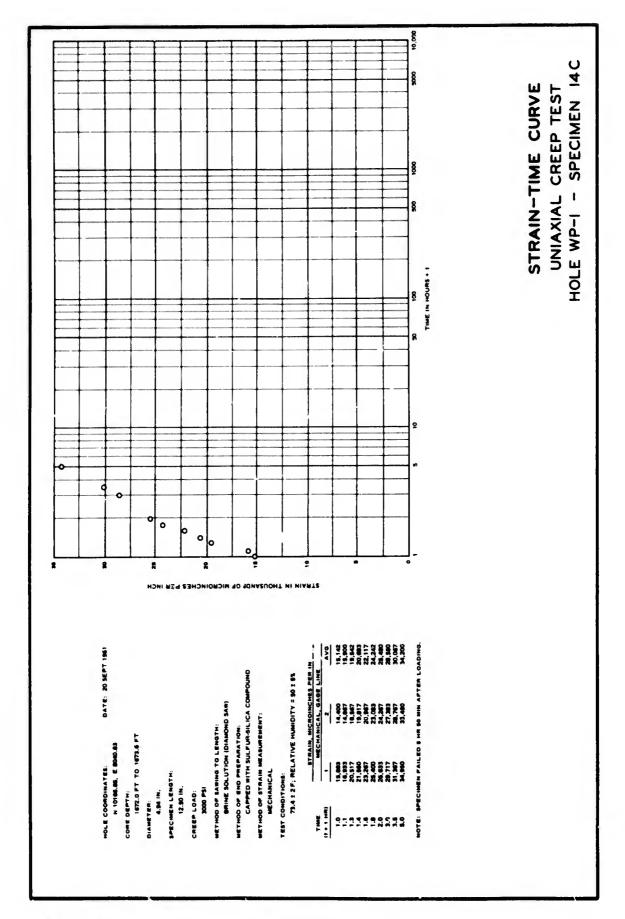
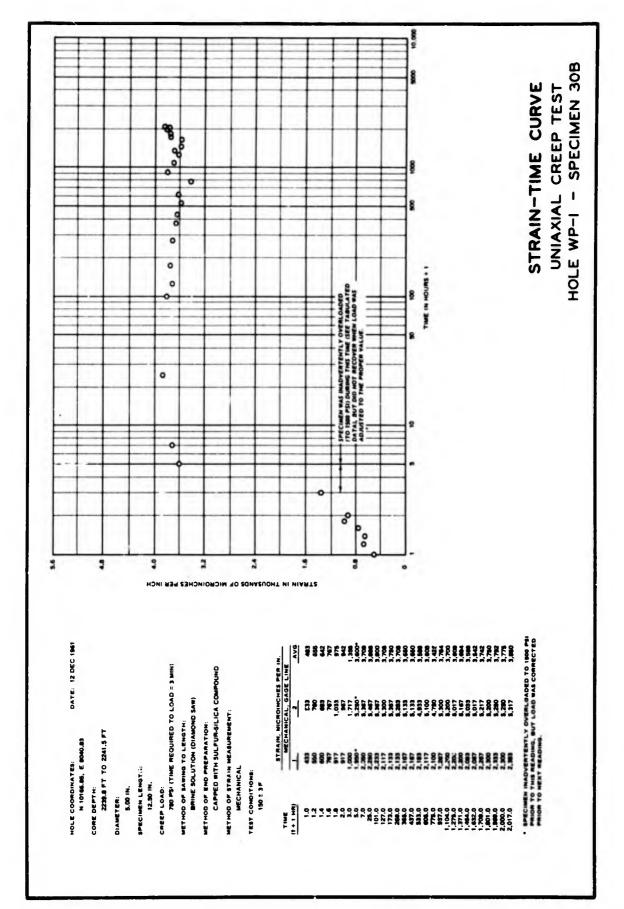
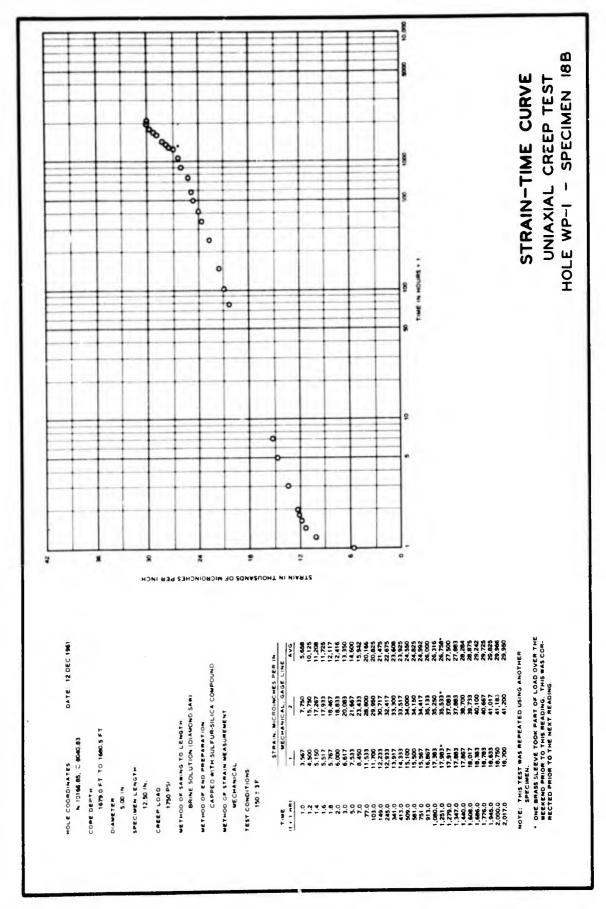
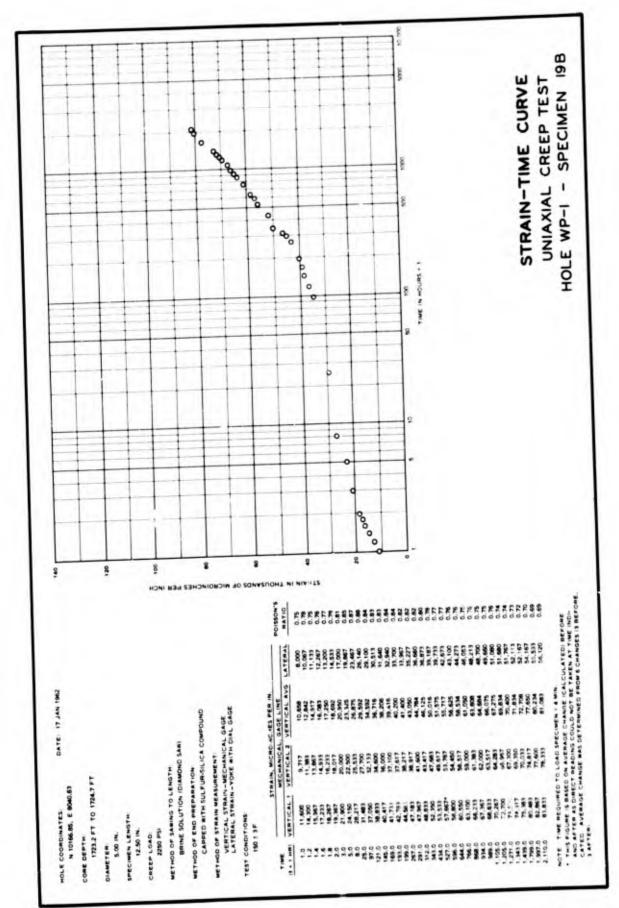


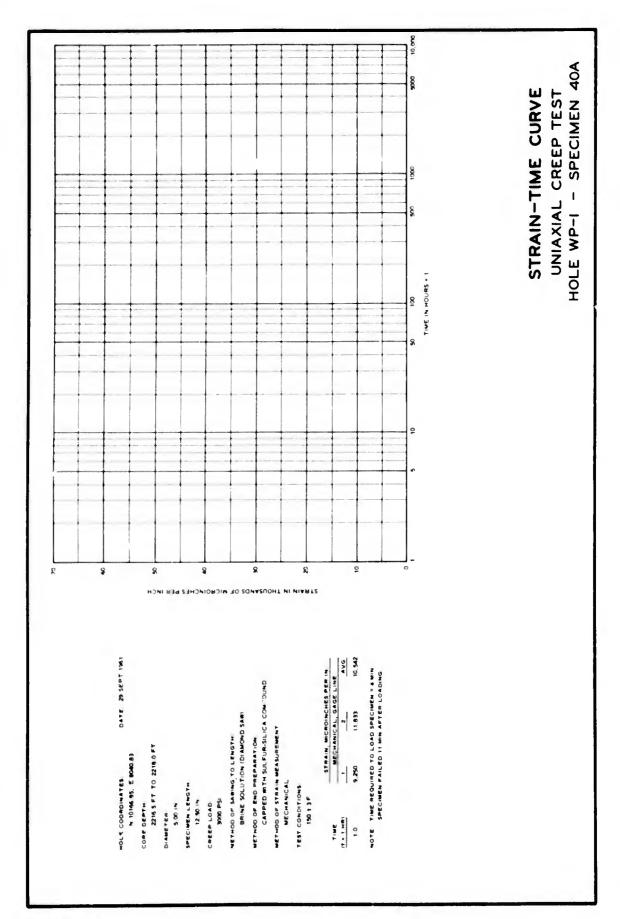
PLATE 120











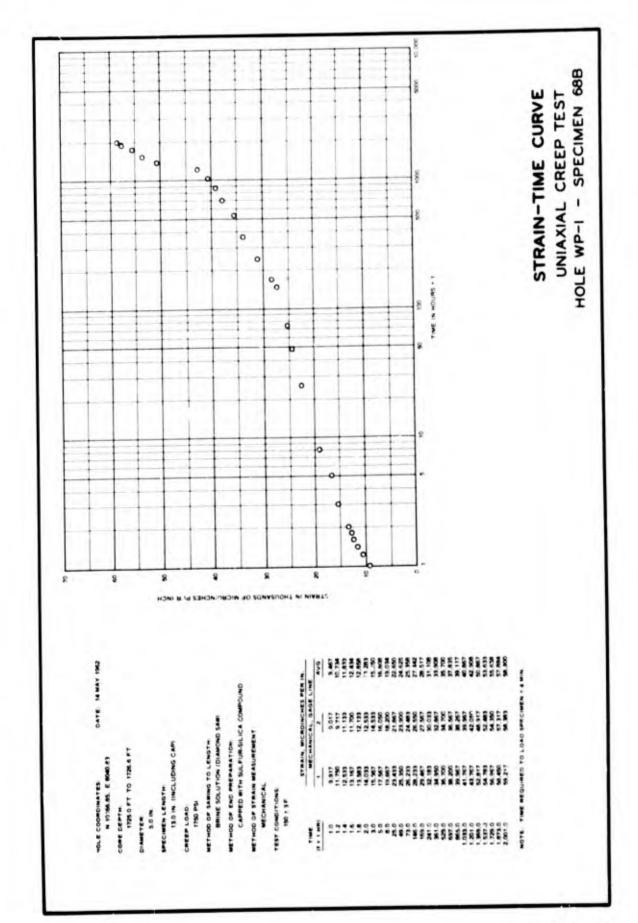
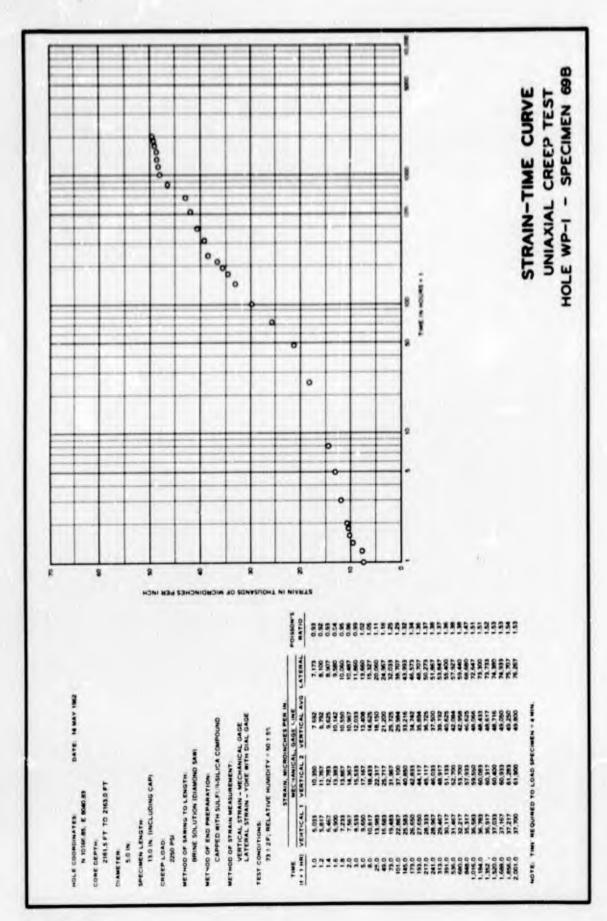
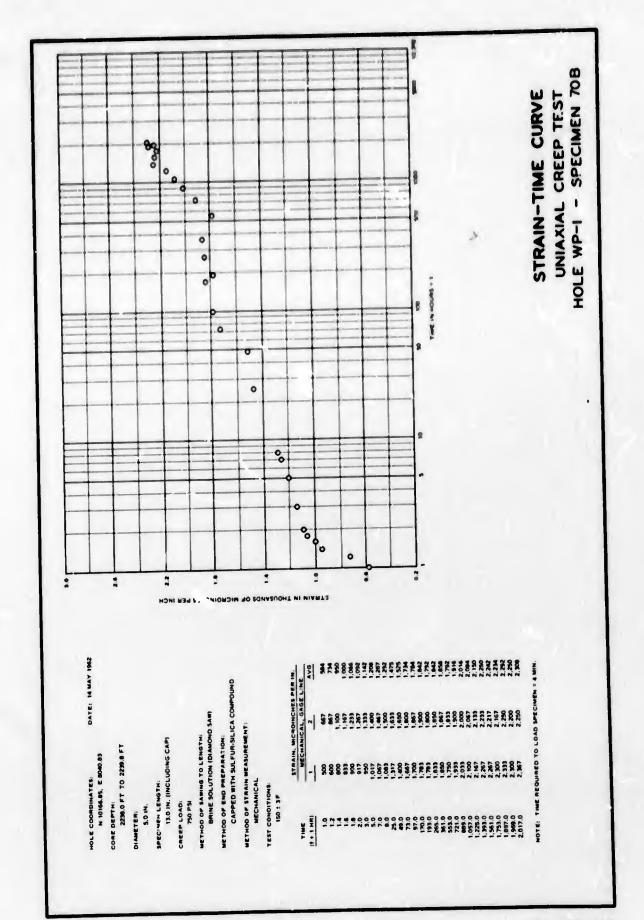
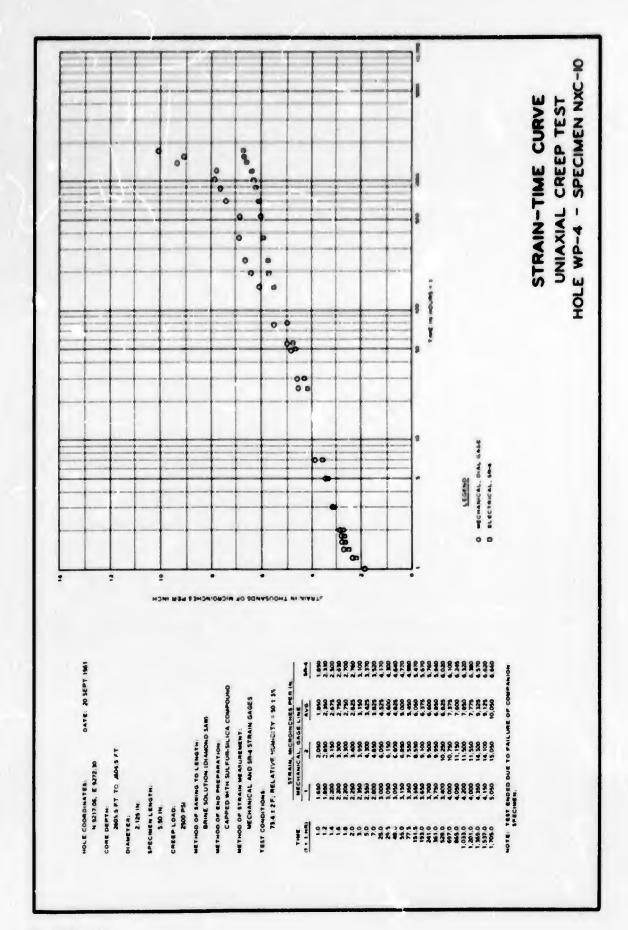
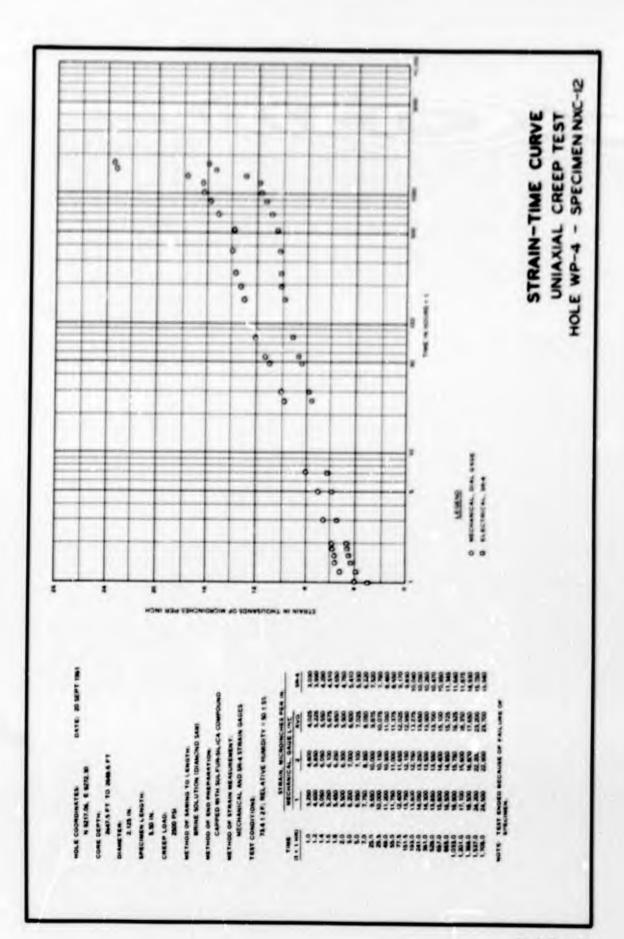


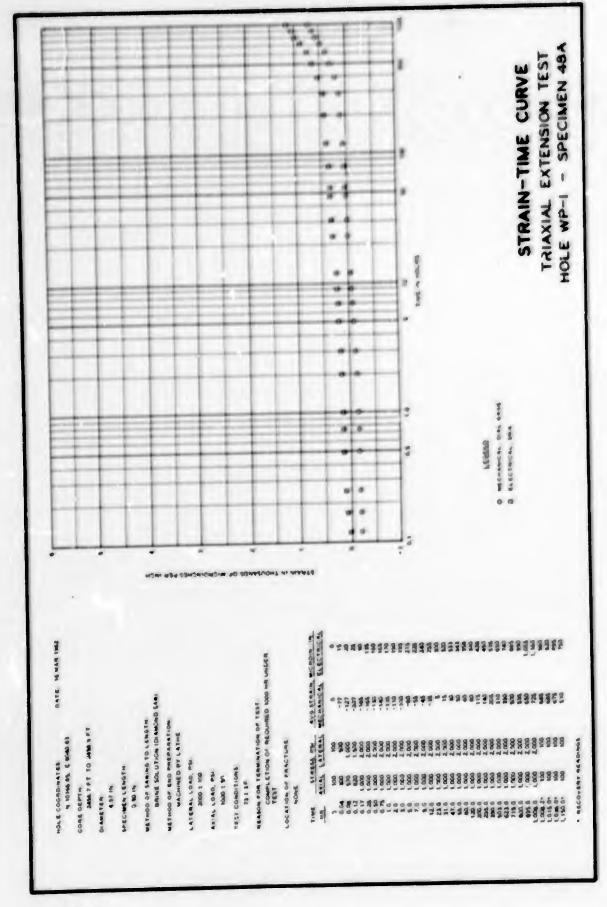
PLATE 126

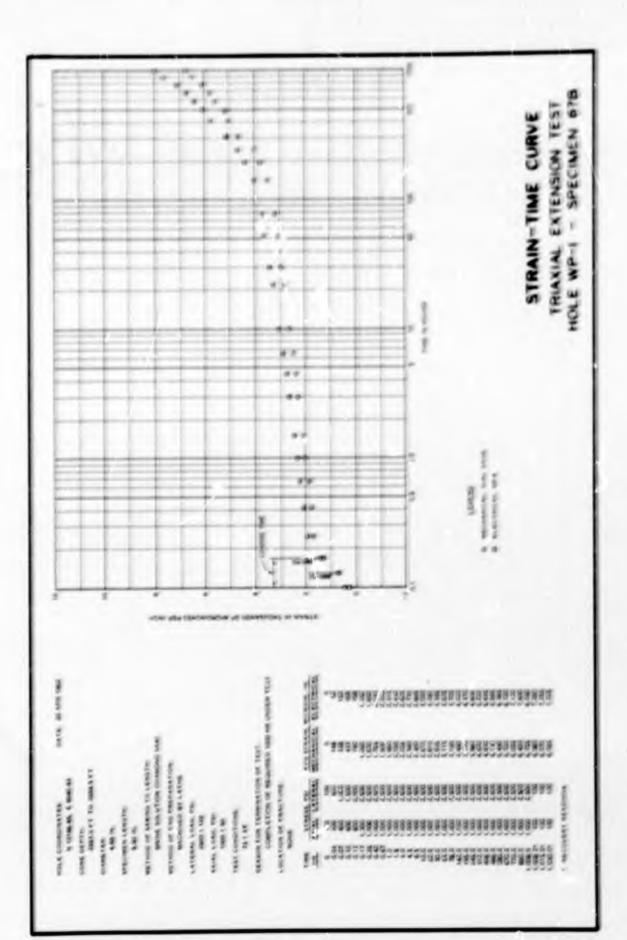


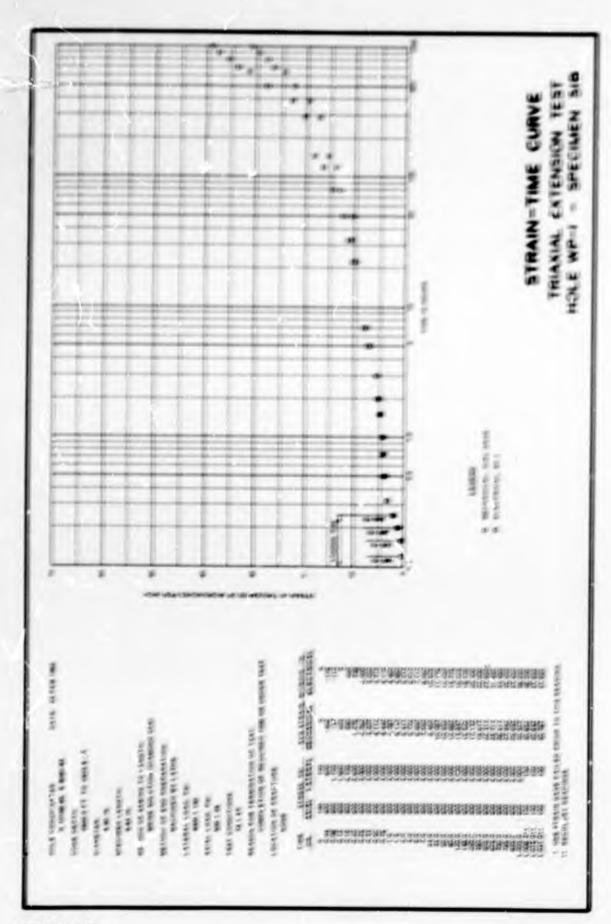


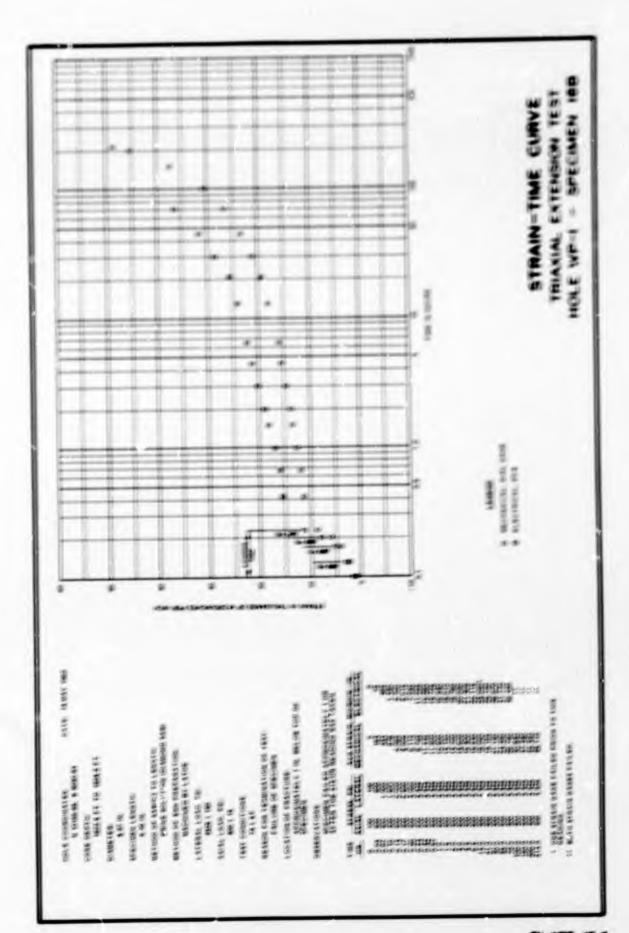


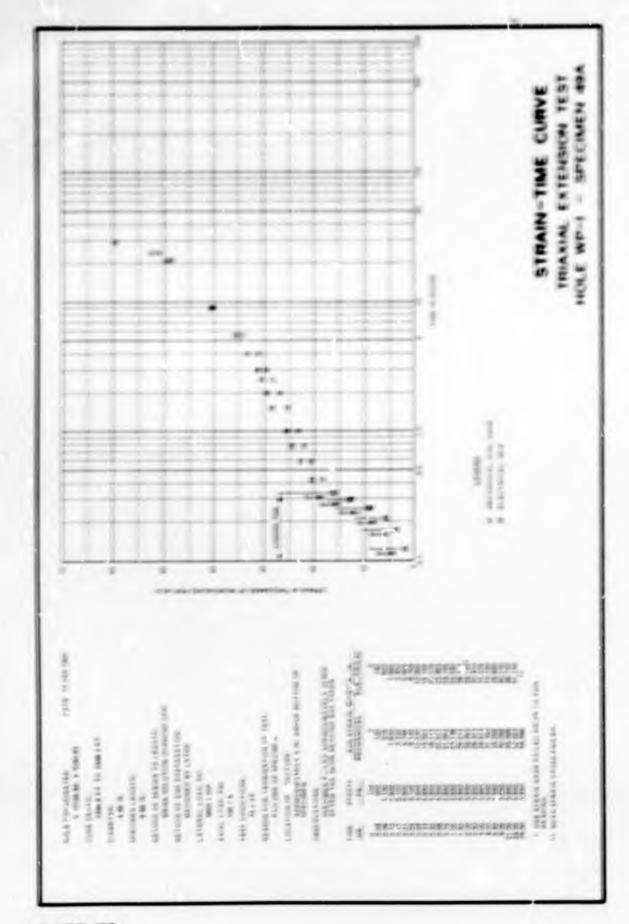












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EXTENSION TESTS

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APPENDIX A: TESTS OF CORES FROM CAREY SALT MINE, WINNFIELD, LA.

Samples

1. Thirty-two rock salt cores were drilled from the floor at the 811-ft level of the Carey Salt Mine, Winnfield, La. These cores were examined petrographically and then 30 were tested for creep. The diameters of the cores and the lithologic types represented were:

| Core No. | Designation | Lithology | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | 4-15/16-inD | Diameter Cores | | | | | | | | |
| 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9A, 9B, 10, 11, 16 | Group I | Alternating zones of pure rock salt and salt containing anhydrite | | | | | | | | |
| 14, 18, 19, 20, 26, 33, 35, 37 | Group II | Anhydrite-bearing salt | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | Group III | Pure rock salt | | | | | | | | |
| | 2-1/8-inDi | ameter Cores | | | | | | | | |
| 2, 5, 31, 32, 35 | Group I | Alternations of pure and impure rock salt | | | | | | | | |
| 1, 11, 12, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 | Group II | Impure rock salt | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Group III | Pure rock salt | | | | | | | | |

Missing numbers in the series of 4-15/16- and 2-1/8-ip. cores represent cores that were broken in handling or were too short for creep tests. Detailed petrographic examinations were made of cores 9A and 9B, which were two broken pieces of one 4-15/16-in.-diameter core classified in Group I but containing a section of pure rock salt, and of core 14, a short or broken section classified in Group II. Neither core 9 nor core 14 was chosen for creep testing. No core of pure rock salt of Group III was available for petrographic examination. It was recommended that cores representing both (Groups I and II) major lithologic types in both diameters be tested for creep at both 73 and 150 F.

Test Procedures

Petrographic examination of cores selected for creep tests

2. Each core was examined visually to observe its texture and degree of homogeneity. Since some of the cores had strain gages taped on them and others had been mounted in the creep-testing frames when they were examined, the examination was hindered to some extent. An estimate of the mineral composition of each core was made (table Al). Detailed sketches

Table Al
Estimated Anhydrite Content of 32 Rock Salt Cores from Winnfield, La.

| | | | | | | | | | | Aı | nhyd | rite | Cont | ent, | % | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|-----|-----|------|----------|----|-------|-------------------|------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|----|-------|-----------|
| | | | | | | up I | rt | | | | | | | | | up II | * * | | | | Group III |
| Core | - | | C | ore | No | • | | | Avg | | | | | Co | re No. | | | | | Avg | Core No. |
| Diameter | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 16 | Value | 18 | 3 | 19 | | 20 | 26 | 33 | 3 | 35 | 37 | Value | 15 |
| 4-15/16 in. | 15 | 15 - 20 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 7-8 | 25 | 5 | 20 - 25 | 25 | 0 - | 25 | 25. 30 | | 25 | 25 | 24-25 | 0-1 |
| | 2 | | Co | ore | No. | | 2 | 35 | Avg | | - 11 | 10 | 16 | | e No. | | | - 00 | | Avg | Core No. |
| | | _ | ۷ | 2 | - | 2 | - | 27 | Value | | ++ | 12 | 12 | <u>19</u> | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | Value | 9 |
| 2-1/8 in. | 10- 15 | 10 | 0 - 5 | | 15 | 1 | 5 | 20 | 15 | 25 - 30 | 20 | 20 | 25 - 30 | 20 | 25 - 30 | 25 - 30 | 25- 30 | 25 - 30 | 20 | 24-25 | <1. |

^{*} Alternating zones of pure rock salt and salt containing annydrite.
** Anhydrite-bearing salt.

** Anhydrite-bearing salt.
† Pure rock salt.

were made of the first few cores examined, but once it became apparent that all cores could be assigned to one of three lithologic types, major emphasis was placed on recognizing the characteristics of each type.

Petrographic examination of cores 9A, 9B, and 14

3. Each of these three cores was sawed axially, and the sawed surfaces were etched with water to remove the saw marks and reveal less soluble constituents. One-half of each core was photographed (photographs Al-A3). Small portions of cores 9A and 14 were dissolved in water. The insoluble residue was examined with a stereomicroscope, and individual crystals were selected and examined with a petrographic microscope.

X-ray examination

4. Powders of some of the 2-1/8-in. cores, of cores 9A, 9B, and 14, and of the insoluble residue from core 14 were examined by X-ray diffraction, using an XRD-5 diffractometer with nickel-filtered copper radiation.

Thin-section study

5. Two thin sections were made from a scrap 2-1/8-in. core and examined with a petrographic microscope.

Description of Cores

6. The major constituent of all of the cores was colorless halite (NaCl), but light- to medium-gray anhydrite (CaSO₄) amounted to 5 to 30 percent of the two abundant types. Traces of dolomite were present in most of the cores. The cores were classified in three lithologic groups, which are discussed below. The distribution of cores by types is shown in table Al.

Alternating zones of pure rock salt and salt containing anhydrite (Group I)

7. Zones of coarsely crystalline, massive, pure rock salt alternated with zones of coarsely crystalline rock salt containing sheared out lenses of anhydrite in isolated well-formed tablets and patches of subhedral crystals. The salt crystals were larger in the pure salt than in the anhydrite-bearing salt in the cores of this group. The salt crystals had no crystal faces, but formed a massive granular texture with individual crystals generally having inconspicuous sinuous boundaries and shapes rather like those in a recrystallized quartzite or a gneiss of high quartz content. There was no recognized evidence of the hopper-shaped crystals that are characteristic of primary salt; no liquid inclusions were found, and there was ample evidence of shearing and deformation of the anhydrite lenses, so that it appeared highly probable that the texture of the salt in these cores is the result of recrystallization. Some of the cores included portions of single crystals up to 3 or 4 in. in maximum dimension; these crystals formed porphyroblasts or large, translucent, clear inclusions in the salt, which in the groundmass ranged in crystal size from 1/4 to 2 in. In many of these cores the most conspicuous features were slightly wavy or stepped, subparallel, horizontal fractures normal to the axis of the core, the three sets of fractures marking the cubic cleavage of the salt, and fractures parallel to the long axis of the cores (photographs Al and A2).

The salt in place in the mine was described as fractured, so that it appeared certain that some of the fractures in the cores were present before they were drilled, but the fractures normal to the axis of the cores were probably related to damage in drilling. Salt is brittle at normal temperature and atmospheric pressure; attempts to polish one-half of a core opened up many more cleavage cracks in the polished surface than in the unpolished half. However, these cleavages and similar fractures on the outer surfaces of untested cores appear to penetrate 1/4 or 3/8 in. at a maximum into the clear salt. It is difficult to estimate how well the properties of cores of massive recrystallized salt like the salt in cores of Groups I and III may represent the properties of salt in place in a large mass.

8. The anhydrite in the cores of this group occurred in thin sneared lenses dipping at about 60 degrees, with the lenses varying in thickness, in concentration of anhydrite, and in distance from lens to lens normal to the plane of greatest extent of the lens. The anhydrite-bearing zones were darker gray and the salt was of smaller crystal size than in the pure salt. There was a tendency for the rounded irregular salt crystals to be elongated parallel to the anhydrite lenses. One small cavity, 1/8 by 1/2 by 1/4 in. deep, was seen in 2-1/8-in.-diameter core 32 at the contact of pure and anhydrite-bearing salt.

Anhydrite-bearing salt (Group II)

9. Cores in this group contained an estimated 20 to 30 percent of anhydrite (table Al) in lenses thicker than those in most of the cores of the Group I (photograph A3). The major constituent of the cores was massive gneissic-textured rock salt in bands ranging from one to several inches thick, alternating with sheared and offset or broken and crumpled bands of much finer grained anhydrite. The salt bands and anhydrite bands dip about 60 degrees. The anhydrite lenses appeared to "rust" on exposed surfaces of the cores after several weeks of exposure in air; the surfaces changed from fairly dark or medium gray to tan or orange-tan, possibly because of the release of iron from iron-bearing dolomite rhombs which occurred scattered in the anhydrite lenses. It seems possible that as the exposed cores pick up moisture from the air, the brine formed may attack the iron-bearing dolomite and release some of the iron to form a hydrated ferric chloride, which would produce the color observed. The crystal size

of the anhydrite was less than a millimeter in this group of cores. The salt crystals were considerably larger, up to about 1.5 cm in maximum dimension; anhydrite inclusions along the grain boundaries of the salt and within the salt crystals were common.

Pure massive salt (Group III)

10. Only two cores of this group were included in the 32 cores examined before creep testing; thus neither was available for detailed examination. The salt resembled that in pure rock salt zones of Group I cores. Photograph A3 shows an area of pure salt.

Results of Thin-Section Study

11. The two thin sections made and examined were taken from core 3, in a part of the core that contained some anhydrite. One section was oriented parallel to the long axis of the core, and the other normal to it. In both thin sections, the largest grains were clear halite, with almost straight or gently arcuate boundaries, an occasional short cleavage crack, and no sign of strain or liquid inclusions or of the sections of hoppershaped crystals common in bedded salt deposits. The other important constituent was anhydrite, in crystals ranging from rectangular prismatic (brick-shaped) to similar crystals with truncated corners, to crystals without any crystal outline because their boundaries were formed by interfering crystals. There were a few rhombic sections of dolomite, most of them pale tan in color with a central core containing many dark inclusions; the dolomite rhombs were distributed at random within groups of anhydrite crystals. Many of the anhydrite crystal groups contained irregular opaque inclusions, usually concentrated along grain boundaries; these did not show metallic reflections when they were examined in reflected light; they may be droplets of petroleum residue. Some of the anhydrite crystals contained inclusions of much lower index of refraction. The principal difference between the two sections was that in the section cut normal to the axis of the core, the majority of the anhydrite crystals were essentially equidimensional, whereas in the section cut parallel to the long axis of the core, the majority of the anhydrite crystals were elongated and there was a rough but perceptible tendency for the anhydrite grains to have their

long axes subparallel. This difference indicated the major direction of deformation in the rock salt to be essentially parallel to the axis of the core and parallel to the vertical axis of the salt dome.

Cores After Creep Tests

- become familiar with test methods and procedures to use with salt specimens. Since very little rock salt had been tested it was not known whether the equipment available would perform satisfactorily or what modifications might be required. Initially, two specimens were placed monolithically in a spring-loaded frame and loaded to the same stress. Several attempts at this procedure resulted in uneven strains, crushing of the caps between specimens, and tilting of the frames. Also, if one specimen failed, the test of the companion specimen was terminated. Subsequently, it was decided to test one specimen per rig with particular attention being given to correct alignment and perpendicularity. Difficulty was also encountered with strain measurement. The following methods were tried and abandoned for the reasons given:
 - a. Carlson strain meters bound with wire to the specimens could not be held fast against the cylindrical surface.
 - b. SR-4 electical strain gages mounted on the specimen were loosened by the spalling of crystals on highly stressed specimens.
- c. Compressometers proved too susceptible to accidental bumping The method which proved most successful was measurement of strain between inserts embedded in the specimen with a mechanical device commonly known as the Whittimore gage. Measurements were taken periodically to fully define the creep curve.
- examined after the end of the test. Both were cores of nominal 5-in. diameter from lithologic Group I. Core 5 was loaded at 2250 psi and tested at 150 F; core 6 was loaded at 750 psi and tested at 73 F. When the cores were mounted in the creep frames and the first loads were applied, the more heavily loaded core whitened perceptibly, losing translucency, probably because of the formation of fractures, perhaps by slipping on grain

boundaries or by the opening of grain boundaries to form air gaps between crystals. The more heavily loaded specimen lost some fragments by flaking as it was loaded. After the test, the outer surfaces of the more heavily loaded core were perceptibly uneven to the touch, as if both flaking of small fragments and irregular lateral bulging of the core had taken place.

Summary of Results

Lithologic varieties

- 14. Visual examination of 32 cores before creep testing and detailed examination of two cores not used in the test indicated that they represented three lithologic varieties:
 - a. Group I. Alternating bands of pure massive rock salt and anhydrite-bearing salt
 - b. Group II. Anhydrite-bearing salt
 - c. Group III. Pure massive rock salt

The distribution of cores by types is shown in table Al. The pure massive rock salt formed large crystals, up to 1 or 2 in. in maximum dimension, in an ever-grained texture of crystals with sinuous inconspicuous grain boundaries, or large porphyroblasts, up to 3 in. or more in maximum dimension, in a groundmass of pure rock salt of smaller grain size and gneissic texture. The anhydrite-bearing salt was banded, with paler, coarser rock salt alternating with darker, much finer grained anhydrite in sheared, faulted, crumpled, or offset bands up to 2 in. thick. The anhydrite bands and the elongated salt crystals in the gneissic salt dipped about 60 degrees. The alternating bands of darker anhydrite-rich salt and paler salt essentially free of anhydrite represent original banding in the undeformed salt deposit, preserved in the metamorphosed salt.

Mineral composition

15. The two most abundant minerals in the Winnfield cores, and the only two that are expected to affect significantly the engineering properties of the rocks that the cores represent, are halite and anhydrite. Halite, or rock salt, is the predominant constituent of all the cores; in the

^{*} Raised numerals refer to similarly numbered items in list of references at end of main text.

bands of massive pure rock salt it is, to all intents and purposes, the only constituent. Halite is cubic, with perfect cubic cleavage, conchoidal fracture, and low hardness (2 on Mchs" scale). Although salt is brittle at ordinary temperatures and pressures, the least shear stress at which it begins to slip is reported to be 30 kg per sq cm, or 427 pai; the important slip planes are the planes of the dodecahedron. Vertical elongation of highly deformed salt crystals, and vertical crientation of the longest body axis of anhydrite crystals are frequently found in the deformed salt of Gulf Coast domes, and were seen in these cores.

16. Anhydrite (CaSO₁) is the most abundant mineral other than halite in these cores, and in samples from other Gulf Chast salt domes; it usually amounts to 99 percent of the water-insoluble residues from salt. It is harder than salt (3-1/2 on Mohs' scale), crystallizes in the orthorhombic system, and has three cleavages at 90 degrees to each other. Like salt, it recrystallizes fairly easily under load.

Structure

17. The salt-anhydrite rock of these cores is highly deformed, as the gneissic texture, the shearing, crumpling, and offsetting in the anhydrite-rich bands, and the steeply dipping elongation of salt crystals and anhydrite crystals demonstrate. The features of these rocks, and of salt-anhydrite rock from other salt domes, most likely to affect the engineering properties of the rocks are the high degree of deformation, and the high degree of preferred orientation in rocks composed of relatively soft minerals.

Cross-fractures in the cores

18. In coarse-grained, almost transparent rock salt, cleavage cracks opened by drilling dip at angles of about 45 degrees to the long axes of the cores and die out into the core, penetrating to depths of 1/8 to 3/8 in. Similar cleavage cracks of similar depth were opened on a saw cut parallel to the long axis in trying to polish one-half of a semitransparent core. However, many of the cores also showed cracks normal to the long axis of the core that apparently pass through the whole core as sets of subparallel planes. These may represent either a set of joints normal to the direction of structural elongation in the dome, or a set of fractures brought about when the core was wedged to break it loose from the bottom

of the core hole, or a set of joints in the dame emphasized by wedging the cores to break them house from the bottom of the hole. These cruss-fractures were more abundant in cores which contained very course pure sult as a major constituent. In the guessoic sult and animitrate rock, the cores were less transparent, and were also finer grained and had a strongly developed, steeply digging structural direction. Cross-fractures in this strong are likely to be stopped at grain boundaries, and the increased proportion of anhydrite increases the strength above that of purer sult.

Charlesion

sonable to concentrate in later enuminations on the structural features of the cores as they may be revealed by more detailed enumination of the cores before physical tests, by enumination of search water-etched surfaces, and by more detailed examination of cores before and after creep tests. It is intended to check the gross mineral composition of a few cores from Tatum by X-ray of a few samples representing lithologic extremes; the probability is overwhelming that selt and anhydrite will be the only constituents present in large enough amounts to be significant in terms of physical properties.

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Photograph Al. Group I wirefield ore. The shows the location and orientation of the control of aminguinate that is seen. This is approximated to



Photograph A2. Group I Winnfield core. Almost 100 percent pure rock salt. (This is lower half of core 9)



Photograph A3. Group II Winnfield core. The dashed lines are drawn down the center of three anhydrite patches to locate them and to show their orientation.

(This is core 14)

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APPENDIX B

| WATERWAYS EX | | PETROGRAPI REPORT | HIC | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|--|------------------|--|--|
| SYMBOL : 441-6387.3 | PROJEC | T: Dribble | DATE REPORT SUBMITTED: 18 May 1961 | INITIA LSI KM | | |
| SERIAL NO: | SOURCE: | | | | | |
| | Hole No | Hole No. 4, Tatum Salt Dome | | | | |

- 1. Samples. Eleven pieces of core from hole No. 4 were received on 12 May 1961; two more on 17 May.
- 2. Test procedure. The cores were measured, examined visually and with a stereomicroscope; some were tested with dilute hydrochloric acid.

3. Descriptions of cores.

| Core No. | Depth, ft | |
|----------|-----------------|--|
| 1 | 948 - 948.5 | Top and bottom not marked; 0.5 ft of brownish-gray, sheared, brecciated, friable, porous carbonate rock containing a little quartz as quartz crystals; very loosely cemented; the color is in the rhombic carbonate and did not come off when the core was wetted with xylol. Both ends of this core are irregular surfaces which might mark the limits of the cementation. |
| 2 | 999 - 1000 | Top and bottom not marked; NX core in 2 pieces taped together with masking tape. A fresh fracture at one end of the core and the weathered fracture one-quarter of the length of the core away from it are both coated with radiating flat rosettes of crystals, possibly aragonite. Core is irregularly banded in darker and lighter gray, blue-gray, and pinkish-tan. Somewhat porous, medium fine-grained crystalline limestone. See fig. Bl. Composition ranges from strontium-rich carbonate rock as in HXC-15, hole WP-1, to pure limestone. |
| 3 | 1107 - 1108 | Top and bottom not shown; NX core 0.93 ft long; one end an old fracture, other end a fresh fracture. Massive medium-grained anhydrite with no visible structure. |
| 4 | 1199.5 - 1200.5 | Top and bottom marked; NX core 0.94 ft long, with both ends bounded by fresh fractures approximately normal to the long axis of the core. Medium gray, massive, fine-grained anhydrite; only structure a bruise and a few cracks near bottom where core was hit, probably with a hammer. |

| Core No. | Depth, ft | |
|----------|-----------------|---|
| 5 | 1299 - 1300 | Top and bottom marked; 1.03 ft long. Top a fresh break, roughly normal to long axis of core; bottom a break started by sawing a groove around the core. Massive, medium dark gray, fine-grained anhydrite with inconspicuous pale banding near bottom and about 0.25 to 0.3 ft below top. See fig. B2. |
| 6 | 1392.5 - 1393.5 | Top and bottom marked; 1.0 ft long. Top is a surface ground flat by the core above moving on it; bottom is a fresh fracture. Inconspicuous banding near bottom; top 0.2 ft of core has four paler bands that are softer than the rest of the core and slightly lower than the adjoining darker surface; this banding looks more like a result of a wobbling core barrel than structure. Massive, medium dark gray, fine-grained anhydrite. Fig. B3. |
| 7 | 1491.5 - 1492.5 | Top marked; 1.1 ft long; fracture at top and bottom; massive halite grains up to 1/2 in. in maximum dimension, with subparallel irregular planes in several intersecting sets dipping 30 to 40 degrees. Pure rock salt, semitransparent; gneissic texture. |
| 8 | 2317 - 2318 | Top marked; 1.0 ft long; top and bottom both fresh fractures. Banded salt and anhydrite, with bands about 3/8 in. thick, dipping 60 degrees or steeper. Anhydrite content about 5 percent. |
| 9 | 2402 - 2403 | Top and bottom marked; 1.1 ft long; top a fracture, bottom a flat cut. Gneissic salt with a few anhydrite bands in the length of the core; salt in elongated grains dipping about 50 degrees; one of the anhydrite bands looks sheared. Anhydrite content less than 5 percent. |
| 10 | 2495.5 - 2496.5 | Top and bottom marked; 0.90 to 0.99 ft long with fractures at both ends. Banded salt and anhydrite, the salt up to 3/4 in. in maximum dimension with the elongation of the salt grains parallel to the anhydrite banding; gneissic texture. In the top 0.37 ft of core, at one side there is a higher concentration of anhydrite. Anhydrite content about 5 percent. |
| 11 | 2603.5 - 2604.5 | 1.03 ft long; gneissic banded salt and anhy- drite in steeply dipping bands; a low concen- tration of anhydrite, less than 5 percent. |

| Core No. | Depth, ft | |
|----------|-----------------|--|
| 12 | 2647.5 - 2648.6 | Top, bottom marked; 1.05 ft long; anhydrite-bearing salt; maximum dimension of halite grains 1-3/4 in., predominantly 3/8 to 1/2 in.; anhydrite up to 1 mm. One side of the core has an elongated patch of darker gray salt of higher anhydrite content. Textural elongation of halite grains dips about 50 to 60 degrees. Anhydrite content 5 percent. See fig. B4. |
| 13 | 2698.5 - 2699.5 | 1.12 - 1.11 ft long; top and bottom marked. An etched-looking core of anhydrite-bearing salt; top break etched, bottom not etched. Coarse-grained, gneissic-textured, anhydrite-bearing salt with more development of cubic cleavage inside grains than in the overlying cores. Anhydrite content 1 percent or less. See fig. B5. |

4. Summary table.

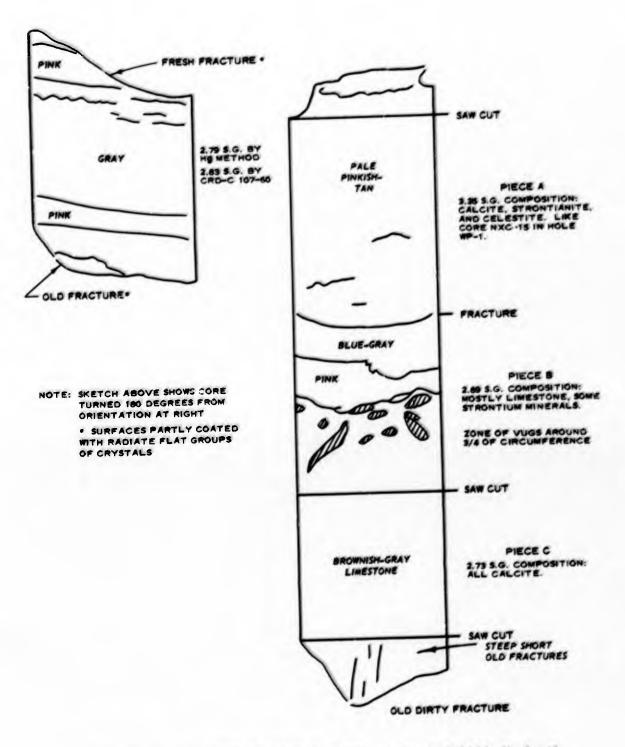
| Rock Type | Classifica- tion by Winnfield Grouping | | Core No. | Depth | of t | Core |
|---------------------------|---|--|-------------|--------|---------|--------|
| Limestone | | Porous, soft, friable, poorly cemented | 1 | 948 | • | 948.5 |
| Limestone | - | Dense, fine-grained, with some closed pores and vugs | 2 | 999 | • | 1000 |
| Anhydrite | - | Medium-grained, massive | 3 | 1107 | • | 1108 |
| Anhydrite | - | Fine-grained, massive | 14 | 1199.5 | - | 1200.5 |
| Anhydrite | - | Fine-grained, massive | 5 | 1299 | - | 1300 |
| Anhydrite | - | Fine-grained, massive | 6 | 1392.5 | - | 1393.5 |
| Pure rock salt | Group III | Coarse-grained, massive, gneissic texture | 7 | 1491.5 | • | 1492.5 |
| Banded salt and anhydrite | Group I | Thickest bands 3/8 in. | 8 | 2317 | - | 2318 |
| Banded salt and anhydrite | Group I | Gneissic salt, sparse anhydrite | 9 | 2402 | - | 2403 |
| Banded salt and anhydrite | Group I | Gneissic salt | 10 | 2495.5 | • | 2496.5 |
| Banded salt and anhydrite | Group I | Gneissic salt, sparse anhydrite | 11 | 2603.5 | • | 2604.5 |

(Continued)

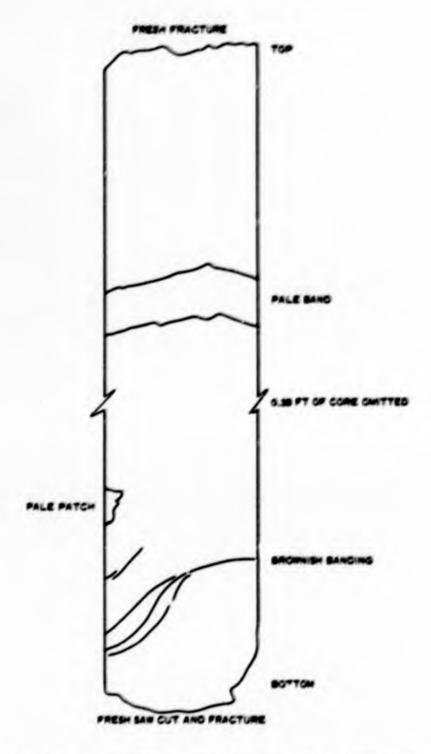
| Rock Type | Classifica- tion by Winnfield Grouping | | Core | Depth of Core |
|----------------------------|---|---|------|-----------------|
| Anhydrite- bearing salt | Group II | Gneissic salt; one re- gion of moderate anhydrite content | 12 | 2647.5 - 2648.6 |
| Anhydrite- bearing salt | Group II | Sparse anhydrite in coarse gneissic salt | 13 | 2698.5 - 2699.5 |

5. Discussion. Cores 1 and 2, both called limestone, differ widely in physical properties; No. 1 looks like a residual accumulation in a zone of weathering, although it is principally calcite; No. 2 is massive and dense SrCO3 rock. Cores 3, 4, 5, 6, the anhydrite group, should be virtually interchangeable in physical properties except that No. 3 is slightly more coarse-grained; all are massive, essentially structureless anhydrite. The salt cores as a group differ in the following respects from the cores from Winnfield: none has as many cracks in open cleavage planes as almost all the Winnfield cores showed; none is as coarse-grained as the coarsest-grained cores from Winnfield; none so far has shown the relatively high concentrations of anhydrite found in some of the Winnfield cores. As a result of the lower anhydrite content, it is harder to divide cores into a banded salt and anhydrite group and an anhydrite-bearing salt group than it was with the Winnfield cores, because the highest anhydrite content so far encountered within the salt plug is low compared to that encountered in the Winnfield cores.

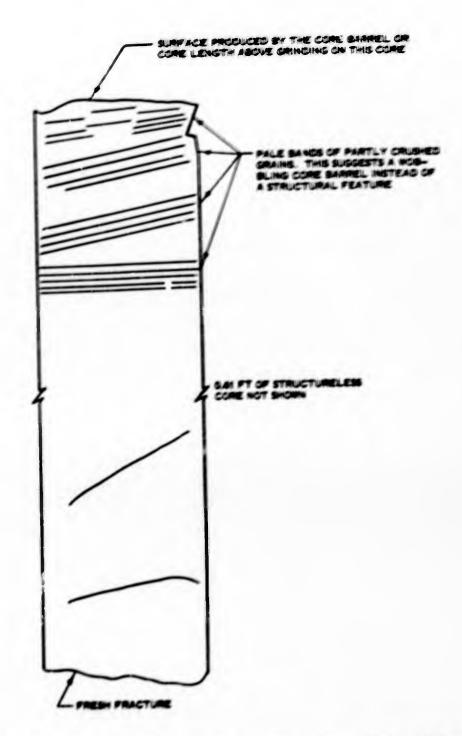
Cores 8, 9, 10, and 11, classed as banded salt and anhydrite, should differ among themselves only to the extent that there is variation in dip of the banding and direction of elongation of the longest direction of the salt crystals; cores 12 and 13, classed as anhydrite-bearing salt, contain less anhydrite and are consequently somewhat coarser-grained than cores 8 through 11; the two should differ from each other only if the differences in dip of the elongation of the salt crystals affect physical properties.



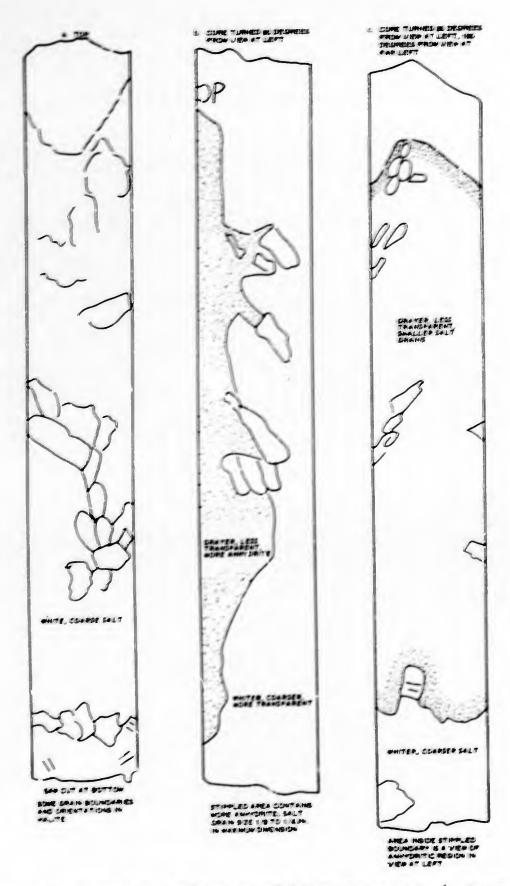
Limestone, core NXC-2, hole 4, Tatum Dome, 999-1000 ft depth



Massive anhydrite, core WXC-5, hole 4, Tatum Dome, 1299-1300 ft depth



Massive anhydrite, core ECC-6, hole 4, Tatum Dome, 1392.5-1393.5 ft depth



Three views of core from 2647.5- to 2648.6-ft depths, hole 4, Tatum Dome (core NMC-12)



Grain boundaries in gneissic, anhydrite-bearing salt, dipping 25 to 30 degrees. Depth: 2698.5-2699.5 ft, core NAC-13, hole 4, Tatum Dome

APPENDIX C

U. S. ARMY ENGINEER WATERWAYS EXPERIMENT STATION CORPS OF ENGINEERS OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR Vicksburg, Mississippi

Refer to WESCI

14 November 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

ATTN: Mr. W. W. ALLAIRE, ALO

SUBJECT: Test Data for Project DRIBBLE, Report No. 5

This fifth report covers results of petrographic examination of Tatum salt cores NXC-22, 23, 24, 25; all from hole WP-4, Coordinates: N 9217.06, E 9272.30; depths as shown on the logs attached.

4 Incl

/s/ Thomas B. Kennedy
THOMAS B. KENNEDY
Chief, Concrete Division

Copies furnished:

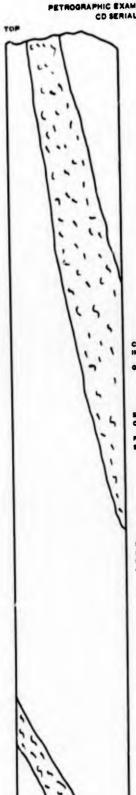
Mr. Phil Pack, H & N

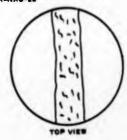
Dr. D. U. Deere, Univ. of Ill.

Mr. W. O. Tynes, WES-CD

Mrs. K. Mather, WES-CD

PETROGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF TATUM SALT CORE CD SERIAL NO. TAT-I-NXC-22





COMPOSITION: ROCK SALT WITH ANHYDRITE AS IMPURITY. < 10% ANHYDRITE.

GRAIN BIZE:

ROCK SALT: 1/18 TO 1-1/2 IN. IN MAXIMUM DIMENSION: AVERAGE SIZE ABOUT 1/4 IN. ANHYDRITE: < 1 MM.

STRUCTURE: MASSIVE ROCK SALT WITH ZONES OF ANHYDRITE DIPPING ABOUT SO DEGREES.

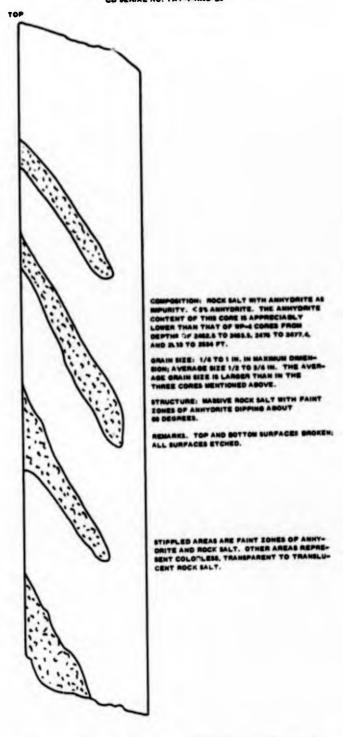
REMARKS: TOP AND BOTTOM SURFACES BROKEN; ALL SURFACES ETCHED.

STIPPLED AREAS ARE ZONES OF GRAY ANHY-DRITE AND ROCK SALT. OTHER AREAS REPRE-SENT COLORLESS, TRANSPARENT TO TRANSLU-CENT ROCK SALT.

Sketch of 2-1/8-in.-diameter core from hole WP-4. Depth: 2462.5 to 2463.5 ft; measured length: 1.15 ft; examined 30 October 1961

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PETROGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF TATUM SALT CORE CD SERIAL NO. TAT-I-NXC-84



Sketch of 2-1/8-in.-diameter core from hole WP-4. Depth: 2522.0 to 2522.9 ft; measured length: 0.95 ft; examined 30 October 1961

PETROGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF TATUM SALT CORE CD SERIAL NO. TAT-I-NXC-25



COMPOSITION: ROCK SALT WITH ANHYDRITE AS IM-PURITY. < 10% ANHYDRITE.

ORAIN SIZE: 1/16 TO 1 IN. IN MAXIMUM OMENSION; AVERAGE SIZE ABOUT 1/4 TO 1/2 IN.

STRUCTURE: MASSIVE ROCK SALT WITH SEVERAL PARALLEL ZONES OF ANNY DRITE SIPPING ABOUT SO DEGREES.

REMARKS: SMOOTH ENDS THAT WERE LAWED OR SMOOTHED WHILE IN CORE BARREL BY ROTATION; ALL SURFACES ETCHED.

STIPPLED AREAS REPRESENT ZONES OF GRAY AHMYDRITE AND ROCK SALT. OTHER AREAS REP-RESENT COLORLESS, TRAMSPARENT TO TRANSLU-CENT ROCK SALT.

Sketch of 2-1/8-in.-diameter core from hole WP-4. Depth: 2533.0 to 2534.0 ft; measured length: 0.78 ft; examined 30 October 1961